

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

Breakfast television may not be taking audiences by storm but it will have a profound effect on the coming election campaign. David Butler reports on the problems of politics round the clock.

Carin Stamp speculates on the outcome of a new competition that could decide the future of one of London's best known landmarks.

For three years the Forestry Commission has been counting Britain's trees with the help of a computer. Hugh Clayton takes a quizzical look at the figures.

Saturday tomorrow includes the weekend guide to the best events in leisure, the arts and entertainment.

## Guard on £2m armed raid charge

A guard working for Security Express was charged yesterday with the attempted armed robbery of £2,241,965 from his employers at Christopher Street, Islington, North London, on March 9.

Alan David Roostan, aged 29, is also accused of the armed robbery of £135,000 from Security Express and McDonalds on November 26 last year, at McDonalds in High Road, Tottenham. He will appear at Old Street Magistrates Court today.

## Solidarity calls May 1 protest

The underground Solidarity leaders called for mass May Day protest against Polish government policies. Mr Lech Walesa, whose wife was interrogated yesterday, said he did not signed the appeal but did not necessarily distance himself from it.

## Adelman in

The US Senate confirmed the controversial appointment of Mr Kenneth Adelman as director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, setting aside doubts about his qualifications.

## Judge dies

Judge Christmas Humphreys, Zen Buddhist, poet, herbalist and Shakespearean scholar, has died at his home in London. He was 82 and still the active leader of the Buddhist society he founded.

## Ripper in court

Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, gave evidence in court against a fellow prisoner accused of slashing him in the face with a glass jar.

## MPs' pay-offs

Just displaced or rejected MPs will be entitled to redundancy payments, normally restricted to those who unsuccessfully contest election, because boundary changes mean that more than half the constituencies will officially be in existence at the next general election.

## Miners' claim

The National Union of Mineworkers is demanding a four-day week and retirement at 55 for its members, in return for following the introduction of new technology.

## Hitchens dies

Gerry Hitchens, who played football for England, Aston Villa and Italian clubs, died playing for a local team at Hope, near Wrexham. He was 48.

Wales: A three-page Special Report on efforts to attract new industries and holiday visitors to the Principality. Pages 13, 15

Leader page 11

Letters: On CABs, from Mr Peter Jay, and Mrs M P Kerry; Labour and pensioners, from Mr Brynmor John, MP, and Mr Peter Shore, MP; health resources, from Professor J A Davis and others

Leading articles: Interest rates; Armed Forces youth scheme

Features, pages 8, 10

The vet's dilemma: President Carter reassessed; Bernard Levin campaigns for the cockney sparrow; fighting off Cogan and Swid.

Friday page: The woman behind Ian Paisley; the dangers of sleeping pills

Obituary, page 12

His Honour Christmas Humphreys, QC

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# Whitelaw yields on police access to medical records

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government climbed down yesterday over its plans to allow police access to confidential medical and other personal records, after a determined campaign by doctors and churchmen.

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, told the Commons that he had taken seriously and sympathetically their anxieties about the provisions of Clause 10 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which would allow police to obtain confidential records of patients.

He had decided to bring forward amendments so that confidential personal records relating to the work of the medical and other caring professions, including priests and social workers, should be exempt from the clause.

Mr Whitelaw also indicated that he would be responding to journalists that the Bill will force them to disclose sources of confidential information.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, will meet representatives of the profession, including the National Union of Journalists, the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, the Newspaper Society and the Press Council, on Monday to discuss changes.

Under the Bill as drafted, police investigating a "serious arrestable offence" could have sought an order from a circuit judge allowing them to search the premises of doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, priests, and others for evidence.

Mr Whitelaw, in a written reply to Sir Edward Gardner, chairman of the Conservative

welcomed the concession yesterday (Frances Gibb writes).

The British Medical Association said the controversial clause had "represented a most serious threat to the diagnosis and treatment of patients". It was "grateful to the Home Secretary for having recognized this danger by removing medical records from the Bill."

The association said it would still seek the extension of the Government's undertakings to cover issues and tissue fluids obtained in the course of diagnosis and treatment of patients. Doctors would continue to cooperate with the police in the investigation of very grave crimes and it was significant, the association added, there were no cited examples of public security being endangered through doctors not cooperating in such cases.

The Rev James Thompson, Bishop of Stepney, who with the Bishop of Kensington led a protest by more than fifty Church of England bishops, also welcomed the change. "But it is important to remember we have been concerned about the Bill as a whole which we want to try to get right for the community. Just because this issue has been tackled, that is not the end of the story."

The Law Society, which already had exemption under the Bill for legal documents claiming "legal professional privilege", but not for other records held by solicitors in confidence, gave a cautious welcome.

## Tory MPs pin hopes on June election

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The first parliamentary week since the Easter recess reached its climax yesterday with MPs of all parties preoccupied, above all else, with the question of when the Parliament will end.

Conservatives, who know no more than their political opponents what may be in the mind of the Prime Minister, hope that some clue may emerge from the private meeting today at which Mrs Margaret Thatcher will rally those Conservative candidates who are not yet MPs.

Among backbench Conservatives the ardour for a June election remains undimmed by the latest dip in the opinion polls, with Gallup in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph* reporting a halving of the Government's lead over Labour in the course of a month, and the Alliance parties falling back into third place.

A clear majority of Conservative MPs appear convinced that



Mr Francis Pym: Advising caution

they would not necessarily win a June election, but that their party would have a distinctly better chance of success in June than later. Nonetheless the polls have also helped confirm the view of those ministers, including Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons.

## Attenborough flies into storm of protest

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

Sir Richard Attenborough arrived back in London from his Oscar-winning triumph in Los Angeles at the centre of a storm over his decision to attend a whites-only premiere of his film *Gandhi* in South Africa.

He said he was determined to attend the premiere. In the Commons, Mrs Margaret Thatcher rejected a suggestion that she should ask Sir Richard not to go to South Africa. It was a matter for Sir Richard. "He must be free wholly to decide this on his own grounds."

The Anti-Apartheid Movement delivered a letter of protest signed by its chairman, Mr Robert Hughes MP, which Sir Richard read on his arrival home, and later the movement received a statement from the UN.

The message, signed by Mr E. S. Reddy, an assistant secretary general at the UN with special

## Training in Forces offered to jobless

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Unemployed school-leavers were yesterday offered the chance of joining the Armed Forces for a year's engagement devoted to training and work experience for which they will receive a £25 weekly allowance under the Government's training scheme.

The Government is making 5,200 places available in the services for young volunteers, 3,700 in the Army, 1,000 in the RAF and 500 in the Royal Navy. The great majority will be for boys. The Army is unable to offer any places for girls, the Navy is offering up to 50 places for girls aged 17, and the RAF a small number.

Announcing details of the scheme in the Commons, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, defended it against fierce Labour criticism and denied that it was the forerunner of an attempt to introduce conscription.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher had earlier predicted a great demand for the limited places available. Many young people would wish to play a part in defending their country, she said.

The volunteers, who will be able to apply by going to their local recruitment offices, will receive the same basic training as regular servicemen and women and some will go on to learn skills and trades. They will have to satisfy existing Armed Forces' entry standards and be able to leave at any time on 14 days' notice. Regulars normally serve at least a three year engagement.

Ten pounds a week will be deducted from their £25 allowance.

Continued on back page, col 3

## Spitfire sold for £260,000



Sir Richard with Oscars at Heathrow

South Africa and "arrived at my conclusion, which was not an easy one."

Clutching his two Oscars, Sir Richard emphasized that he had been granted a permit to attend the black premiere in



Walking the course: Master Peter Phillips taking his father in hand after Captain Phillips had competed in the dressage at the Badminton Horse Trials yesterday.

## Building societies welcome base rate cut to 10%

By Frances Williams and Baron Phillips

The big four clearing banks yesterday took the hint from the Bank of England and cut their base lending rates by half a percentage point to 10 per cent. But a further cut in rates now looks some way off.

The move, which brings base lending rates back to their level at the beginning of the year, has given a welcome reprieve to Britain's five million home owners threatened by higher mortgage interest rates.

National Westminster led the way after the Bank of England cut its key money market dealing rates for the second day running. This was an unmistakable signal that it was willing to see a drop in base rates after more than a week of resistance. The previous half point cut came on Budget day a month ago.

The authorities have been anxious to temper hopes of rapid cuts in interest rates, because they fear this could put sterling under pressure and make monetary control more difficult.

The money supply is now growing at the top of its target range and may overshoot this month because of the Govern-

ment's spending spree at the end of the financial year, revealed in official figures on Wednesday.

The authorities will want to see the money supply clearly under control or a significant strengthening of sterling, perhaps following a cut in American interest rates, before sanctioning a further reduction in lending costs. This is likely to be some weeks away.

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, welcomed yesterday's reduction which he said would benefit industry by £135m a year.

But real rates were still high. "We want further cuts to boost the recovery that is just beginning to happen," he said.

There was little reaction in the foreign exchange markets where the cut has been generally expected. The pound rose 0.4 cents to \$1.5045. Its trade-weighted index slipped 0.4 to 82.4, reflecting losses against European currencies which were more than made up in late trading.

Overdraft rates will fall by half a percentage point from today.

The building societies have been saying for some weeks that unless the banks lowered their interest rates, the cost of mortgages would have to rise.

The extent of the danger was known yesterday when the Building Societies Association said that net receipts in March were only £379m, well below the £700m which is necessary to maintain the lending level.

A total of £1,912m was lent to home-buyers during February and a further £1,905m was promised to mortgage applicants. At the end of last month the building society movement was committed to lend £4,203m.

Mr Richard Weir, the association's secretary general, said last night: "The reduction eases the upward pressure on building society interest rates but nevertheless base rates are still a full percentage point above the levels established when the mortgage rate was reduced to 10 per cent in November."

But he said that further reductions in base rates would be necessary for the movement to stay competitive for attracting investment.

Money growth, page 17

## Maestro strikers vote to stay out

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

More than 5,000 workers at BL's Cowley plant in Oxfordshire voted overwhelmingly to stay out of strike yesterday amid warnings from management that prolonged action would jeopardize investment. Last night the action was made official.

The dispute so far has cost £60m, stopped production of the newly-launch Maestro car for a fortnight and has constituted the most serious industrial relations problem at the company for many years. Around 4,000 other BL men have been made idle.

The stoppage is ostensibly over BL's decision to withdraw "washing up time" during shifts, but the dispute is merely one symptom of breakdown in the relationship between the company and its Cowley employees and a sign of increasing militancy.

Workers at the plant angry at what they regard as the autocratic attitude adopted by a management attempting to raise productivity.

No further meetings are planned at the plant until next Friday, but there will now be closer involvement of national officers of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service is likely to intervene in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

Shop stewards at the works had recommended rejection of a revised peace formula from the company which would have phased out cleaning up time over a longer period.

Management also said that, with the cooperation of the workforce, it expected higher bonus earnings would be possible from May 16.

But the union says there can be no return to work until BL gives up its attempts to bring Cowley into line with other works and phase out cleaning up time.

Mr David Buckle, Oxford district secretary of the TGWU, told the strikers yesterday: "Some people believe this is an olive branch from the company. It is a stinging nettle and if you grasp it you will be stung."

Mr Harold Musgrove, Austin Rover chairman, has warned that a project to build a new executive car, codenamed XX, scheduled to be built by BL and Honda, was under threat because of the stoppage.

The Ford Motor Company yesterday announced a fresh attempt to persuade workers at its Halewood plant in Merseyside to accept radical changes in working practices. Unions have threatened to strike over the attempt to introduce what they call "Japanese-style" patterns of work (The Press Association reports).

Ford hopes to show all 9,700 employees a video film intended to allay their fears.

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# Yorkshire Ripper says fellow-prisoner attacked him with glass

Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, told a court yesterday that another prisoner at Parkhurst Prison hit him in the face with a glass jar.

Sutcliffe was giving evidence at the hearing of a charge against James Costello, aged 35, who is alleged to have attacked him. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

Sutcliffe, aged 37, who gave evidence handcuffed to a prison officer in the witness box at Newport Magistrates Court on the Isle of Wight, said: "Suddenly I was subject to a particularly nasty, totally unexpected and unprovoked attack."

Smartly dressed in a grey suit and open-necked blue shirt, Sutcliffe, who was bearded, wore a golden cross on a chain around his neck.

Costello sat in the dock flanked by two prison officers. He is accused of wounding Sutcliffe in Parkhurst on January 10 with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Mr Graham Grant-Whyte, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court Sutcliffe suffered a severe injury in the attack, and needed surgery.

He had a deep laceration five inches long across his face, a two and a half inch deep laceration at the outer upper part of his left eye and a laceration to his upper left eyelid. He lost some blood and was in a state of mild shock. He underwent an operation to repair superficial muscle damage.

Sutcliffe told the magistrates he was a prisoner in the hospital wing at Parkhurst, where he went in January this year. Shortly before 6 pm on January 10, staff unlocked his cell so he could get some water.

He filled a bowl and, as he turned the tap off, was aware of the presence of another person.

"I did not pay particular attention to who it was. I took about two strides and suddenly I was subject to a particularly nasty, totally unexpected and unprovoked attack. The first thing I was aware of was a glinting glass container just before it smashed into my face."

Pointing to the left side of his face, Sutcliffe added: "It hit me there."

He identified Costello, sitting in the dock, as the person who attacked him. Costello said he did not know Costello.



Sutcliffe arriving at court yesterday.

Sutcliffe, who arrived amid tight security two and a half hours before the hearing was due to start, was driven away in a prison van almost immediately after giving evidence. A crowd of about a hundred waited outside the court and there was some booing.

Costello, whose address was given on the court records as c/o Broadmoor Hospital, was committed for trial at Newport Crown Court. The magistrates overruled a defence submission that the prosecution case was not sufficient to require the case to go for trial.

Cross-examined by Mr Peter Ader, for the defence, Sutcliffe said he had been hearing voices, giving him advice when he was depressed.

He denied having difficulties in his relationships with other prisoners. "Aren't you a rather unpopular person?" Mr Ader asked. "Yes, but it does not affect me because it is an ignorant opinion they hold. Anyway, they just do not understand," Sutcliffe said.

Asked if he was aware that his story would be worth money if he told it to the press, Sutcliffe replied: "That is the trouble with society today. People are motivated by greed and there are no moral values at all."

Earlier Mr Grant-Whyte, describing the alleged attack, said two blows had been struck and hospital officers had witnessed part of the incident. Asked what had happened, Mr Costello said Sutcliffe had attacked him.



## The go-anywhere phone

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

Gone are the days of having to be in carport of the telephone when waiting for a call or being frustrated by hearing it ring just before stepping into the bath. Britain now has its first officially approved cordless phone, allowing the user to make and receive calls 600ft from the telephone's base.

The unit has a base (shown left), which is connected to the normal telephone socket and mains electricity, and a cordless handset powered by a small battery, linked with the base by radio frequency. When replaced on the base the handset battery is recharged automatically from the mains supply.

The first design was launched yesterday by Fidelity which will market its own brand and has supplied a design to British Telecom, also launched yesterday. Among the first to try it were Suzanne Danielle, the actress, and a policeman on duty in London's Embankment gardens (above).

Four other British suppliers have been given approval to sell cordless telephones. They are Plessey, which is expected to manufacture two models, Conversation Pieces, Answer-call and Geomarc.

The sets, which cost about £170, are expected to threaten the telephone extension market. Top photograph: John Manning

## Hammer used to wreck home

Rodney Towler, aged 49, was committed to prison for a month at Southend County Court yesterday for making his estranged wife homeless, which Judge Gordon Rice ruled was in breach of an earlier order not to molest her.

The judge had also previously ordered Towler, an unemployed heating engineer with three children, to leave the matrimonial home in Hadleigh Park Avenue, Thundersley, Essex, by April 2.

In an affidavit Mrs Margaret Towler said she returned home to find the roof partly ripped off, windows smashed and a water cylinder punctured, causing flooding. Ceilings were bulging or collapsed, there were holes in the walls and the lavatory and bathroom basin were smashed. The repairs totalled £4,500. The husband admitted causing the damage with a hammer.

## Doctor for trial on drug charges

Pierre Jonsescu, aged 82, a Romanian-born retired Harley Street doctor facing 20 charges of forging prescriptions for heroin substitute drugs, was remanded on bail by Marlborough Street magistrates yesterday for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Since he first appeared in court on November 17 Dr Jonsescu of Hallam Street, Marylebone, county London, has been remanded in custody in his absence each week while being treated for chronic bronchitis.

## Council buys ponies at risk

Somerset County Council has paid £1,300 from the rates to help to save the world's oldest breed of horse from extinction.

Three mares, a filly and a colt have been bought to protect the Exmoor breed, which has only 150 mares surviving in their natural environment and has been declared an endangered species. The council bought six mares and a stallion two years ago, and five mares are now in foal.

## Manx death penalty vote

A report recommending the retention of the death penalty for murder in the Isle of Man will go before Manx MPs in Tynwald on Tuesday and is almost certain to be accepted.

But death sentences passed by Manx courts will continue to be commuted to life imprisonment by the Home Secretary "for the foreseeable future".

## U-boat visit

Two West German submarines and their mother ship arrive on a three-day visit to Orkney today. They form part of the Third Federal German Submarine Squadron and will have a total complement of 126.

## Footballer dies

Gerald Hitchens, aged 48, a former England international and Aston Villa player, collapsed and died during a village football match in Hope, North Wales, on Wednesday evening. He lived in Holywell, Cwtyd.

## £500m dock leisure centre plan

By Baron Phillips Property Correspondent

A multi-million pound leisure and convention centre is being planned for a 1,200-acre docks site in Bristol which if allowed, will be the largest development of its kind in Britain.

Planning permission for the development, which is expected to cost at least £500m, is being sought by the international Heron Corporation headed by Mr Gerald Ronson. It is expected that an outline of the scheme will be considered by Woodspring District Council early next week.

The site is about three miles outside Bristol city centre between the Royal Portbury Dock and the Portlehead Dock. The vacant land is owned by Bristol City Corporation and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The scheme would provide thousands of jobs in the area. At the heart of the development is a large convention centre similar to ones in the United States where convention business is thought to be the eleventh largest industry in the country. Apart from the conference and convention facilities, there will be extensive hotel accommodation, a leisure park, ancillary offices and shops, housing and some light industrial development.

A Heron spokesman said last night that the location was right for such a scheme. The company was confident of being granted outline planning consent and it would then spend several million pounds on a research and feasibility study.

In the 1960s Heron developed a large housing and shopping centre at Yate, a Bristol suburb, but since then it has grown into one of the largest private multinational companies in Britain. Its interests cover property development and investment, petrol stations, car sales, house building, electronics and insurance, and are spread throughout America and North America.

It is thought the scheme would provide the largest and most extensive convention and leisure facilities in Europe.

Part of Canaby Street, once the heart of "swinging" London in the 1960s, has been sold for £10.5m to a property company.

The sale was of about 180,000 sq ft of shops and offices on the west side of the street. Peachey Properties, the new owners, now control about three quarters of the street.

Property column Page 24

## New moves to curb animal experiments

By John Young

Proposals for legislation to control experiments on animals were published yesterday by a joint working party of the British Veterinary Association, the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation and the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments.

Their report suggests that experiments should be confined to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases in humans, animals or plants, including the safety testing of medicines, and the quality control of foods; the detection of physiological conditions, including pregnancy diagnosis; prolongation of life; protection of the natural environment; animal breeding; the advancement of biological knowledge; and certain limited educational and training purposes.

The premises where experiments are carried out and those conducting them should be licensed by the Home Office, it says. Applications for licences should be countersigned by two sponsors holding similar appointments in biological sciences.

With the exception of farm animals, those used in experiments should be bred for the purpose, the report suggests. The use of cats or dogs taken from the streets should not be permitted.

Mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs, cats and hamsters should be acquired only from registered establishments. Other animals, particularly primates, should be added to that list as soon as there is a reasonable prospect of a sufficient supply.

"In reaching a decision to use wild animals for experimental purposes, the welfare of the animals, the survival of the species and the quality of the experimental material should be taken into account," it says.

"Financial grounds alone should not be a sufficient reason for an exception to be made."

The report notes that the difficulty of defining pain, suffering or distress has not been resolved satisfactorily. But it is possible to recognize various states of suffering, both in intensity and duration.

For example, a brief painful stimulus, such as the insertion of a needle through the skin, is probably inconsequential. On the other hand, the stress imposed in the restraint and immobilization of the animal may be severe.

Mr Neil King, president of the British Veterinary Association, said yesterday that the report represented an important meeting of minds between responsible welfare organizations and was a significant advance in establishing a cornerstone for legislation.

Dr Tom Gibson, the association's vice-president, said it was not at this stage possible to exclude cosmetics from being tested on animals.

Vets' dilemma, page 10

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Vets' dilemma, page 10

## Driver 'woke' after car crash

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A company sales executive who went to bed after taking sleeping tablets and pain killers, woke up in a police station and heard how he had driven through red traffic lights and then crashed his car, West London magistrates at Acton were told yesterday.

Raymond Johnston, aged 39, of Haygarth Mews, Wimbledon, had no recollection of the crash after he had taken two Halcion sleeping tablets. He had also taken two dihydrocodeine tablets (DF-118), a strong pain killer which, coupled with a similar dose a few hours earlier, could have been responsible for his robot-like behaviour, the court was told.

Mr Johnston was cleared of driving while unfit due to either drink or drugs after a 28-hour hearing in which the expert witness for the defence was Dr Cornelius van der Kroef, a Dutch psychiatrist.

Dr van der Kroef, whose campaign against Halcion led to its ban in Holland, said Mr Johnston's "automaton" resembled that which he had seen in many of the 1,000 cases he had analysed. He thought it "highly probable" that the behaviour had been caused by Halcion.

But Professor Malcolm Lader, Professor at London University's Institute of Psychiatry, said that Halcion in the recommended dose in Britain, which is lower than it was in Holland, "has not been associated with a higher incidence of adverse reaction than any other member of its class".

He said the levels of the pain killer DF-118 in Mr Johnston's blood were "extremely high" and that there had been deaths reported at that level. The "automaton" behaviour could have been caused by that drug alone.

## GPs paid up to £250,000 in error

Sheffield City Council's health department has been asked for advice on how to recover the overpayment of National Health Service funds, due to an administrative error, to family doctors in the city. The overpayments, which may total about £250,000, have been made over a number of years by the Sheffield Family Practitioner Committee.

Some doctors have been paid

twice for contraceptive services supplied to NHS patients in the city. Some practices are said to have been overpaid by up to £3,000 and there is a strong likelihood they will have to repay the money.

Mr Philip Nuttall, the committee's administrator, said that the amount to be recovered from doctors in the city would "depend on the departmental view on how we handle it".

General practitioners supply contraceptive services on an item-for-service basis. After making out a prescription, they send a claim form to the family practitioner committee detailing the type of service supplied and the committee reimburses the money. A Sheffield doctor claimed yesterday that it was possible that busy doctors in large practices could overlook the extra payments.

## London cable TV 'may be uneconomic'

By Ome Electronics Correspondent

Glasgow could prove to be an economically attractive location for cable television operators in spite of its concentration of lower income groups while London, once thought to be the most potentially lucrative area for cable, may prove uneconomic.

The findings are contained in *Cable Britain: Be Profitable*, a report published yesterday and prepared by National Economic Research Associates International, a firm of consulting economists. The results are based on a study of four sample cable franchise areas: London, Glasgow, Leicester and Nottingham.

The London franchise consisted of Hammersmith, Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and the franchise period in all the samples was assumed to be 12 years.

The report concludes: "Households with children are much more likely to subscribe to cable; in this respect London looks less attractive for cabling than the other franchise areas."

## Wife 'used as kennel maid' gains divorce

A wife whose husband was said to have used her as a "kennel maid" for their dogs and apart from that ignored her was granted a divorce yesterday.

The behaviour of Mr William Ivens, aged 47, was more than his wife, Joy, aged 53, could be expected to tolerate any longer. Judge Patricia Coles ruled in the London Divorce Court.

The judge said that after 21 years of marriage the "only common denominator" left between Mr and Mrs Ivens was their interest in their eight Saluki dogs.

Mr Ivens, of Woodlands Lane, Windlesham, Surrey, a principal with a London firm of estate agents, had not communicated with his wife for years, had not had sexual relations with her for seven years and embarrassed her by ignoring her at social occasions, the judge said. He did not even tell her when he bought a racehorse.

"It is obvious Mr Ivens is running his own life completely and is simply using Mrs Ivens as a kennel maid for the dogs."

## Assault risk in wards 'greater than on beat'

Mr James Sharp, a former policeman who works as a nurse, said yesterday that hospitals were such violent places he felt at greater risk of being assaulted there than when he was on the beat.

Mr Sharp, a night nursing officer at Whittington Hospital, Highgate, north London, said staff faced a growing number of attacks from patients, visitors and intruders.

He said staff were often afraid to leave the safety of wards at night. He called for more security staff to make hospitals safer. "The sad truth today is that a nurse's uniform is no longer protection against attack. It may well make her a target," he added.

Mr Sharp told reporters attending the Royal College of Nursing annual meeting in Bournemouth that violence was widespread.

A study at one hospital in London showed that assaults and violent threats against staff had increased to 47 in a five-month period last year compared with only 21 during the same period in 1981.

He said: "Can one imagine the outcry if any chief constable said the increase in violent crime in his area had increased by over 100 per cent? They would have been screaming in Parliament."

Miss Pauline Bryant, a night sister from Watford General Hospital, said she had been hit by patients who became violent or aggressive for various reasons, because of their injuries, confused states, or drink withdrawal.

"All of a sudden, they spring up in the middle of the night. They are suddenly irrational. These people have no bounds of strength, even old folk. When they get aggressive they are so strong," he added.

She said nurses had to be on their guard against violent patients did not come between them and the ward telephone or their personal radio so that they could not summon help.

Mr Trevor Clay the college's general secretary, said the issue of violence would be discussed by the ruling council next week.

## Police support for more aid to crime victims

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Strong police backing for a big expansion of aid to victims of crime is pledged by Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, as part of his new social contracts between police and public.

The aid will be given by volunteers, with police and Government support, as part of the fast-growing National Association of Victims Support Schemes. The volunteers will enlist help for victims who need it.

Sir Kenneth announces his plan in the annual report of the association, which tells how three volunteers spent four days cleaning and repairing an Asian grocer's shop after a petrol

bomb attack. In Islington, volunteers provided urgently needed aid for a blind man who was assaulted and robbed in the street. Manufacturers of his stolen pocket tape-recorder, used for notes and reminders, gave him another free when volunteers told them.

The volunteers also alerted the Metropolitan Society for the Blind to give him an immediate grant during his recovery from injury and help him claim £565 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

When youths set fire to the front door of the home of a Bromley woman aged 88, severely shocking her, volun-

teers arranged accommodation elsewhere until she recovered. Then, to keep her spirits up, arrangements were made for her to attend a day centre. The local beat policeman also kept special watch on her flat.

"There must be a movement away from the concept of victim support being a welfare service for a minority of victims," Sir Kenneth writes.

Sir Kenneth's plan is part of a big growth nationally in aid to victims. Miss Helen Reeves, the association's national officer, notes in the report a 50 per cent increase in people offered help in 1982, to a new total of 41,375. By the end of the year, 2,912 people were working

voluntarily in local schemes. Between September 1979 and September 1982, the number of schemes increased from 34 to 129.

Six more schemes are planned in London, where 16 are already in action. Sir Kenneth's backing means other schemes are now likely.

He says: "It is vitally important to harness the community in responding to the needs of victims, as well as attempting to reduce the number of victims through crime prevention."

The association claims in its report to have a more extensive voluntary service for victims of crime than any other country in the world.

## The Royal Charter for the University of Buckingham is now officially sealed.

The University of Buckingham, formerly The University College at Buckingham, has now achieved full university status. It is Britain's only independent university and provides unique features in university education while retaining the traditional British emphasis on small-group teaching.

- \* Two-year degree course (BA, BSc, BSc(Econ), LLB)
- \* Four ten-week terms per calendar year
- \* Programme of inter-disciplinary supporting courses, including modern languages, for all undergraduates
- \* January start for courses, with an additional Law intake in July

Applications may be made immediately for the two-year Law degree beginning this July, or at any time for degrees beginning in January in the following subject areas:

ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS, and ECONOMICS, HISTORY, POLITICS, and ENGLISH, EUROPEAN STUDIES (3 years), LIFE SCIENCES, LAW (also a July entry), POLITICS, ECONOMICS, and LAW.

Postgraduate courses are also offered and there is an expanding programme of research.

Applications are made direct to the Admissions Officer, not through UCCA. Opened as The University College at Buckingham by the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher in 1976, Buckingham had as its first Principal Professor Max Beloff, (now Lord Beloff), who was succeeded in 1980 by Professor Alan Peacock, now Vice-Chancellor. The Chancellor of the University is Lord Hailsham.

For further information please write to: The Admissions Officer, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG, or telephone Buckingham (0280) 814080

# The University of Buckingham



## PARLIAMENT April 14 1983

## Yards unwilling to take risk over Cunard refit

## SHIP REPAIRING

British ship repair yards must be prepared to fulfil orders on time, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in reply to Labour criticism at a session in the Commons on the decision to send the Cunard Countess to Malta for a £2m refit.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said that the Government should have threatened to withhold the 40 per cent of the cost which was coming from the taxpayer, unless the work was given to a British yard.

Mrs Thatcher said that it was disappointing that a British yard could not be found to do the work in time for the ship to be back in the Caribbean on July 9. Mr Foot said he would add to the sense of outrage in the country about the matter.

The matter was originally raised by Mr Robert Mitchell (Southampton, Techen, SDP) who asked the Prime Minister to tell him what the chairman of Cunard and the British Shipbuilders and explain that 40 per cent of the cost of the refit of Cunard Countess is coming from the taxpayer, that thousands of shipyard workers are on the dole, and will she do everything possible to make sure they come to an agreement that the refit should take place in a British yard?

Mrs Thatcher: Efforts were made to find a British yard to carry out this work in time for the ship to return to her commitments on July 9. It was not possible to find a British yard which could do the work in time. It is very disappointing that such a yard could not be found.

It was vital that the ship should be back on duty by July 9. It is disappointing that yards which did so well during the Falklands war were not able, in peacetime, to match that.

Mr Foot: Her answer will only add to the sense of outrage throughout the country. Does she really mean that the Government will stand back and let the work go ahead in Maltese yards? If she is so unwilling or unable to do anything about it, will she at least cease the hypocrisy of exhorting other people to buy British?

Mrs Thatcher: The weakness of Mr Foot's case is that British yards have been asked to undertake the refit in time and were unwilling to take the risk that if they were not successful in carrying it out in time, they would have incurred a penalty. A penalty would be incurred if she did not get back to undertake her normal duties in time. Mr Foot: Has she inquired into the conditions applied and still penalise clause imposed? Does she think it



Mitchell: Thousands on the dole

right it should be imposed? Does that have Government support? Since so much taxpayers' money was involved, if the Government had said the money would have been withheld if the work was not done in British yards, the work could have been done here.

Mrs Thatcher: The ship has to be back to the Caribbean on July 9. It is not the cruises can not continue and enormous penalties would be incurred.

It does not seem to me unreasonable to say that we must have the ship back in the condition in which she was chartered, by a certain date.

The work was first offered to British yards, but no British yard could meet that date.

I saw on television last night that the chairman of British Shipbuilders said it would not risk the penalty, but other yards were apparently able to meet the deadline.

I understand why it is disappointing that no British yards could do so, but the attitude we must take is that we must be prepared to do that work on time.

## Thatcher declines to end election speculation

## PM'S QUESTIONS

The only clue that Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, would give in the Commons about the date of the next general election was that it would be some time in the next 15 months.

But when the election comes (she declared) we shall fight it on the Tory record and on Tory policies and I think we shall win.

She was replying to Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Scotland, Exchange, Lab) who called on the Prime Minister to end speculation by announcing that she would seek a fresh mandate from the electorate this summer.

When she fights the election (he went on), will she fight it not on Tory record and on Tory policies but on the Tory Government's mass level of unemployment?

Mr Parry also asked her to condemn the silly attempt to recruit unemployed youth into the armed forces. The Prime Minister and the Government (he went on) have been wallowing in the blood of the people killed or wounded in the Falklands and it should be stopped as it is obscene. (Conservative protest)

Mrs Thatcher: With regard to some young people under training going into the armed forces, I believe there will be a great demand for the limited number of places that are available.

It will, of course, be totally voluntary and many young people will wish to take advantage of the opportunity to play a part in defending their country.

Mr Michael Nesbitt (Havering, Romford, C): When the Labour Party was in power, tax thresholds fell by 5 per cent for a married man and 20 per cent for a single person, whereas under this Government tax thresholds have risen by more than prices.

On the anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the Opposition would do better to remember Lincoln's maxim: do not make the rich richer, make the poor richer.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with the quotation from Abraham Lincoln. I also agree that under the last Labour Government, tax thresholds fell, whereas under this Conservative Government, tax thresholds have increased by 5 per cent more than inflation, so there has been a real improvement.

In addition, in our first four years of Government, net take-home pay has gone up by 8 per cent, whereas in the first four years of Labour it went down by 4 per cent.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing, North, C): Has she heard the varied estimates of the cost of implementation of the Labour Party proposals recently published by the Conservative Government, between £15,000m and £40,000m, 12p on the basic rate of income tax and five million unemployed? (Labour laughter)

The Opposition might well get excited, they have got something to answer for. What does she think the cost of these ridiculous and stupid proposals might be?

Mrs Thatcher: We have done such calculations as we can and we understand the one-off cost of these plans would be between £100m and £200m. The annual cost would be between £30,000m and £40,000m. The whole thing will be totally disastrous, but they will never get the chance to implement it.

## Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday's Debate on the Brandt report *The Common Crisis*. Tuesday: Debates on Opposition motions on East Angia and on shipbuilding and shiprepair industry. Wednesday: Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, remaining stages. Thursday: Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages. Friday: Private members' Bills: Diseases of Fish Bill, report. Young Persons' Rights Bill, second reading. The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Telecommunications Bill, second reading. Tuesday: Energy Bill, committee. Water Bill, report. Debate on reform of the building societies. Wednesday: Debate on energy conservation. Thursday: Water Bill and British Shipbuilders Bill, remaining stages. Friday: Private members' Bills: Diseases of Fish Bill, report. Young Persons' Rights Bill, second reading.

**Parliament today**  
Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on UK dependencies.

## Shipbuilding move fails

## HOUSE OF LORDS

What has happened so far in a number of instances of the sale of public sector assets has been a public scandal. Lord Bruce of Donnington, speaking for the Opposition, said on the report stage of the British Shipbuilders Bill which paves the way for the "privatisation" of British shipbuilding.

He went on to give the warning: When the next Labour Government gets into office we shall examine some of these transactions that have taken place. What happens now and what has happened in the past may well form a useful guide as to what may happen on reversion.

Lord Bruce moved an amendment which, he said, would enable a reasonably accurate value to be obtained when the Secretary of State for Industry, using his powers under the Bill, directed British Shipbuilders to dispose of any assets. He proposed that the value should be determined by a valuation committee under which in certain circumstances a determination of price should be referred to an independent arbitrator appointed by the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

He said the Bill gave the Secretary of State powers virtually to dismantle British Shipbuilders at any point of its own choosing.

Lord Trefgarne, for the Government, said this complex amendment would have far-reaching effects upon the Secretary of State's ability to exercise his powers of direction. It was the Government's intention that the powers should be used to build upon the strength of the industry and not for any purpose extraneous to the industry's needs. The amendment was rejected by 108 votes to 63 - Government majority, 45.

**Correction**  
Remarks about *The Londoner* and other newspapers made by Lady Trumpington (C) during the reconstruction of the Water Bill were wrongly attributed in the parliamentary report yesterday to Lord Ardwick (Lab).

## Forces to train young volunteers

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The armed forces are to offer voluntary training places for the young unemployed, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, announced in a statement in the Commons. He denied in reply to Labour questions that the scheme would be the forerunner of compulsory conscription.

Mr Heseltine said: I have been considering the role of the armed forces in the Government's programme to provide training and work experience for unemployed school leavers. The high quality of the training provided by our Armed Forces has convinced me that they should play a part.

I therefore propose to make available some 3,200 places for the young unemployed volunteering for such opportunities which will be on the same basis as the youth training scheme. The precise number of places available in the first year will depend on the number of applications and the capacity of the Service training establishments.

The young people will volunteer to join one of the Services on a 12-month engagement, part of which will be spent in formal training and the remainder in work experience. All volunteers will receive the same basic training as regular Servicemen and women, and some will go on to learn skills and trades.

All applicants for the scheme will be volunteers, will have to satisfy existing entry standards and will be able to leave at any time on 14 days' notice.

They will be Servicemen and Servicewomen and in all but a few respects will qualify for the same benefits as single regulars and under the same discipline. They will receive, as will youngsters joining civilian employers in the scheme, an allowance of £25 per week. I have decided that a deduction from this will be made for food and accommodation of £10 per week.

The Ministry of Defence will receive the same subvention as civilian employers. As the YTS volunteers will pay less than the normal Service food and accommodation charge, my department will contribute about 10p to subsidize this lower deduction.

I hope that the scheme may be in operation before September this year.

I am sure the House will applaud the willingness of the armed services to devote some of their training facilities to the benefit of young people.

Mr Dennis Davies, an Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament (Llanelli, Lab): This statement represents an abysmal and depressing epitaph to four years of Tory government. Having put thousands of young people into the dole queues and onto the street corners, all the Government can now think of is to put military uniforms on some of them for 12 months.

The scheme offers no hope of real training and it does not provide young people either with the dignity of the professional soldier or the dignity of a civilian job.

After 12 months under the economic policies of this Government they will again be put in the dole queues.

Has the Manpower Services Commission been consulted on this, and if so what was their reaction? Is it not the case that two years ago they turned down a not dissimilar scheme?

Where will the money come from for this scheme, from the existing budget of the MSC or will it be given extra resources to do it?

This scheme is an insult both to the professional armed forces and to the young people themselves. What the youth of Britain need is not despairing schemes of this kind but a change of government that would provide for real training and a genuine hope for the future.

Mr Heseltine: The scheme is as close as it is possible to devise to the Youth Training Scheme, but it is administered through the Ministry of Defence.

I cannot accept the general attitude of the Opposition. My own sincerely held view is that the Labour Party is obsessed with running down our armed services. They cannot understand the respect and admiration in which they are held which means that a large number of people will volunteer.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Runcorn, C): Rather than the carping criticism from the Opposition, this statement will be widely welcomed both as a means of widening the training opportunities available to young people leaving school this year and as a constructive step to deal with the problem of the shortage of job opportunities for young people.

Mr Heseltine: I am sure this will be seen as a further manifestation of the Government's determination to help young people.

Mrs Shirley Williams (Crosby, SDP): Will the training be subject to military law and will they at the end of their period have any special status. Some of us are concerned about the possibility of a not properly constituted youth force.

Mr Heseltine: The volunteers, while they are with the Services, will be subject to military law in every respect and that is the only way in which the scheme would be workable, but no one would be seen as a new initiative in the setting up of any new force.

Mr Nigel Spearling (Newham, South, Lab): This is not really the Service, but it is a youth training scheme, the introduction of a new category of temporary service volunteer. Will it apply equally to ladies and gentlemen with roughly half 2,500 ladies joining the forces? Who will choose the recruits and on what basis will such selection be made?

Mr Heseltine: The process of recruiting the volunteers will be the same as that which applies now for recruitment to the armed services and the same entry basis will be to be applied because they will be training alongside the regular recruits.

There will be more opportunities for boys than girls because we cannot see opportunities in this particular context for more than a limited number of girls in the Navy and the RAF, but I would not seek to try to give an additional definition to this scheme.

Sir Philip Goodhart (Bromley, Beckenham, C): As the forces have such a superb record in training young men and women, can you congratulate him on managing to bypass the MSC whose short-sighted opposition to earlier projects of this sort managed to scupper them. Can he say whether those who complete this training satisfactorily will have priority in getting places in the armed forces?

Mr Heseltine: I totally endorse his description of the superb record of training of the armed services. Obviously there will be opportunities for continuation for those who seek it but it cannot be an automatic right.

It will depend on the number of places available and the number of regulars who are on or who are recruited in the overall defence budget.

Mr David Young (Bolton, East, Lab): The criticisms from this side are not against the armed services but against the Government which is at present in control of them which has stumbled into an unnecessary war in the last year. Can he assure us that this is not the first step to a form of conscription moving from the voluntary to the compulsory?

Mr Heseltine: I can assure him it is in no way to be seen as a step towards the introduction of an earlier form of conscription. When I had conscription in this country 200,000 people were conscripted every year and it is quite reasonable to try to suggest that 3,200 volunteers can do as well as compared with that situation.

Mr James Spiller (Dorset, West, C): If the services find they are capable of taking more young people will he consider this as only a trial run which can be extended?

Mr Heseltine: They wish to operate on the basis of a professional armed service and would not regard it as in the country's best interests to blur that very clear commitment.

Miss Joan Lester (Eton and Slough, Lab): Some of us who represent people from the working class would have hoped for a better alternative for our children, and I include my own, than the dole queue or the armed forces.

Is he not saying that there are no long-term employment prospects for thousands of young people in this country and therefore is offering them the armed forces?

Mr Heseltine: The idea that the Opposition represents the working class is out of date.

Mr Frank Allam (Salford East, Lab): Is it seriously intended to give training in arms to 16-year-olds? Young people need training for living, not training in killing. Surely this Government, in view of the unprecedented unemployment, has no difficulty in obtaining recruits for the armed forces?

Mr Heseltine: We are going to give training to 16-year-olds in military experience very much in line with the training for 16-year-olds that the Labour Party happily voted for in their periods in government.

Mr Alexander Lyon (York, Lab): How can this scheme be other than compulsory conscription? (Conservative shouts of "No")

The Government is creating a situation in which half the school leavers this year will not be able to get jobs and many of those who have left in the last two years have still not got jobs. This is a scheme for taking people off the unemployment list and enabling them to become part of the armed forces of this country and in so doing it is a disgrace.

Mr Heseltine: We have offered to 16-year-olds a guarantee of work experience at that age. Therefore there is no way in which they are going to be told there is only an opportunity in the armed services. I will be happy, on or who are recruited in the overall defence budget.

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Mr James Spiller (Dorset, West, C): If the services find they are capable of taking more young people will he consider this as only a trial run which can be extended?

Mr Heseltine: They wish to operate on the basis of a professional armed service and would not regard it as in the country's best interests to blur that very clear commitment.

Miss Joan Lester (Eton and Slough, Lab): Some of us who represent people from the working class would have hoped for a better alternative for our children, and I include my own, than the dole queue or the armed forces.

Is he not saying that there are no long-term employment prospects for thousands of young people in this country and therefore is offering them the armed forces?

Mr Heseltine: The idea that the Opposition represents the working class is out of date.

Mr Frank Allam (Salford East, Lab): Is it seriously intended to give training in arms to 16-year-olds? Young people need training for living, not training in killing. Surely this Government, in view of the unprecedented unemployment, has no difficulty in obtaining recruits for the armed forces?

Mr Heseltine: We are going to give training to 16-year-olds in military experience very much in line with the training for 16-year-olds that the Labour Party happily voted for in their periods in government.

Mr Alexander Lyon (York, Lab): How can this scheme be other than compulsory conscription? (Conservative shouts of "No")

The Government is creating a situation in which half the school leavers this year will not be able to get jobs and many of those who have left in the last two years have still not got jobs. This is a scheme for taking people off the unemployment list and enabling them to become part of the armed forces of this country and in so doing it is a disgrace.

Mr Heseltine: We have offered to 16-year-olds a guarantee of work experience at that age. Therefore there is no way in which they are going to be told there is only an opportunity in the armed services. I will be happy, on or who are recruited in the overall defence budget.

Mr David Young (Bolton, East, Lab): The criticisms from this side are not against the armed services but against the Government which is at present in control of them which has stumbled into an unnecessary war in the last year. Can he assure us that this is not the first step to a form of conscription moving from the voluntary to the compulsory?

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Miss Joan Lester (Eton and Slough, Lab): Some of us who represent people from the working class



## South African Indians tell Attenborough to stay away

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Most leaders of the South African Indian community believe Sir Richard Attenborough should not come here next week to attend the opening of his award-winning film *Gandhi*, which will be shown only to racially segregated audiences when it goes out on general release. His presence, it is felt, will be a leading respectability to apartheid.

Most Indians also feel, however, that because of its message of non-racism and non-violence, it is better that the film should be shown to segregated audiences than to none at all.

"If people, and especially the Government, change their feelings as a result of seeing it, I would be very happy," Mrs. Sushila Gandhi, a daughter-in-law of the Mahatma, told *The Times* yesterday.

A frail 78-year-old, Mrs. Gandhi was - until she became ill - the managing trustee of the Phoenix Settlement, an agrarian self-help community founded by Gandhi during the 21 years he spent in South Africa as a young British-trained lawyer. She turned down an invitation to attend a Durban premiere of the film as a protest against segregated cinemas, and thinks Sir Richard should have made the same gesture.

## Bishops will not stay silent, Mugabe told

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

In a studied reply to an attack 10 days ago by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, in which he described them as "sanctimonious prelates", Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic bishops today upheld what they call a duty to speak on political matters when individual rights are involved.

In a statement to mark the third anniversary of independence on Monday the bishops said they resented the unfortunate situation in some parts of the country, but said there were indications that life in the ravaged province of Matabeleland was returning to normal after bloody anti-insurgency operations by the security forces.

"Drought relief is being resumed, curfews are being lifted, stores and schools are being reopened and bus services are being restored," they said.

The latest word from the bishops comes on the heels of an Easter pastoral statement in which they denounced army brutality, which they said had resulted in a reign of terror. Hundreds of peasants had been killed, maimed and raped in wanton atrocities.

Mr Mugabe, responded some days later by bitterly censuring the bishops, saying they had submitted to external pressure to condemn the Government.

In their latest statement, the bishops say they do not see these exchanges as marring the good relationship between the Government and churches and that their sole objective in speaking out had been to promote true and lasting peace.

## Nuclear freeze vote delayed by Republicans

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Republicans forced the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives to postpone until next week a vote on a resolution calling for a halt to development and deployment of new United States and Soviet nuclear weapons.

Democrats are confident that the non-binding resolution will be easily adopted probably next Wednesday. The Republicans had prepared about 40 amendments aimed at weakening the resolution, which is strongly opposed by President Reagan.

Opponents of the freeze said the resolution would prevent the administration from modernizing US nuclear forces to match the big Soviet military build-up. The postponement came on Wednesday, after a long debate.

## Drifting pack ice takes polar walker south

By Richard Dowden

There was no relief again yesterday for David Hempleman-Adams, the 26-year-old Bristol man who is walking alone to the North Pole. The aircraft which drops his food supplies has been delayed for six days by bad weather and his emergency rations are destined to last for only seven days.

"He will not die of starvation yet. He will eat out his rations," Mr Martin White, his London-based contact man said.

"But his problem is working out an equation. He usually consumes and uses up about 7,000 calories a day. His emergency rations give him only 20 or 3,000 calories a day, so he has to do less or even stay still. This means he is actually

going backwards at the rate of three miles a day, because the pack ice drifts south as it melts. "He is very depressed, but it is my guess he will not give up yet. He is very, very determined and very strong", Mr White said.

The 60ft ice ridges are behind him and the temperature has risen from minus 50C to minus 35C. The possibility of a break in the ice becomes more likely with every day that passes.

Nearer the Pole, there is also a greater danger of being attacked by polar bears. Virtually every North Pole expedition has been harassed by polar bears. Mr Hempleman-Adams is carrying a light rifle.

## Gibraltar unions 'black' Royal Navy fleet

From Richard Wigg, Gibraltar

The Navy visit here, which has been roundly condemned by Spain's Socialist Government, has run into familiar British-style trade union trouble. Water and fuel supplies have been cut off from the 11 warships and two submarines led by the aircraft carrier *Invincible*, with Prince Andrew on board, which docked on Wednesday.

The action by union members among the 1,400 employees in the dockyard was intended as a protest against its closure.

However, it naturally became entangled with the Madrid protest to the clear embarrassment of Mr Joe Bassano, branch Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and who is also leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party. He agreed to cooperate with the

Navy in "special cases" after a storm of protest greeted the start of what was to have been a 48-hour blacking to stop the fleet being readied for the Spring Train manoeuvres due to start on Monday.

Mr Bassano promised the blacking would not prevent the Navy being ready to sail from Gibraltar as scheduled on Monday. He admitted his union members would not suffer. Over the weekend they would be paid double time.

He said the nuclear-powered submarine *Splendid*, which arrived an hour after the blacking had begun, was given shore-supplied electricity and yesterday, the flagship *Bristol* was attended to, because its water-making equipment had broken down. The blacking had earlier prevented the destroyer *getting* shore water.

From Richard Wigg, Gibraltar

A Navy spokesman admitted that the blacking, ordered by the Gibraltar Trades Council, was "causing a lot of inconvenience to sailors a long time at sea and described the situation as 'unfortunate'."

Watched by only two of the three Spanish vessels which witnessed the arrival, the Spring Train force of about 4,000 officers and men did training exercises aboard their ships, according to the spokesman, who said any further details were "naturally secret."

The blacking, has been condemned by Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, as ill-timed and playing into the hands of the colony's enemies. It has also evidently made the unions unpopular among many ordinary Gibraltarians.

Mr Wilfrid Garcia, president

of Gibraltar's Chamber of Commerce, emphasized how much Gibraltar needs Navy visits, both economically and politically.

"We can only count on Mrs Thatcher for gestures like this," he said. "The Foreign Office does not seem to be getting the message that Gibraltar's economy has got to be supported so that it does not matter what the Spaniards do."

The Spanish protest, he said, was dictated by a belief that they had a commanding position in negotiations with Britain over the Rock's future, because the colony's economic difficulties had been increased by last December's partial opening of the frontier with Spain.

● MADRID: Dispatching the British fleet to Gibraltar was "an anachronistic act, politi-

cally not a very intelligent act" Señor Fernando Morán, Spain's Foreign Minister, said in an interview broadcast here yesterday by the state-run national radio, Harry Debelius writes.

Señor Morán was interviewed by a radio reporter on his arrival in Mexico City, his first official stop on a Latin American goodwill trip which will also take in Colombia. He left Madrid on Wednesday.

The opinion of Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, was somewhat more subdued. He said that his Government would maintain "the necessary balance between prudence and firmness", while at the same time "acting bilaterally and in other forums to make it plain that we consider the British action to be out of proportion with Spain's own conduct."



## Mitterrand explains expulsions

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand has denied that the expulsion from France earlier this month of 47 alleged Russian spies and their families was in any way intended to be an act of hostility towards Russia.

It was the first time that Mitterrand commented in public on the affair. He was being interviewed on Swiss television on the eve of a two-day official visit to Switzerland.

"It is normal that when a country discovers illegal activities being carried out on its territory, it reacts," Mitterrand said. "That should surprise no one. It is not a special act of hostility towards the country in question... My relations with the Soviet Union will be excellent the day that both of us understand that mutual respect is the best of international law."

● As the two Britons expelled in a "tit for tat" retaliation left Moscow yesterday, diplomats said they were puzzled by continuing anti-French statements in the Soviet press, which could indicate that the Soviet Union does not intend to retaliate against France on a large scale, Richard Owen writes.

At Moscow airport Squadron-Leader David Williams, the assistant Air Attache, and Mr Anthony Robinson of the *Financial Times* were seen off by a large group of friends and colleagues, including Sir Ian Sutherland, the British Ambassador.

Angolan leader in secret talks with Shultz

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The United States and the Marxist regime in Angola have taken a further step towards normalizing relations after a secret meeting this week between Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Lieutenant-Colonel Manuel Alexandre Rodrigues, the Angolan Interior Minister.

It was the highest-level meeting between the two countries since Angola became independent from Portugal in 1975. Colonel Rodrigues may also have a meeting with Vice-President George Bush before he returns to Angola.

American officials cautioned that the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Luanda Government would not be possible until there was an agreement on the withdrawal of some 25,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

Colonel Rodrigues, who is considered to be the second man in the Angolan Government, came to Washington for talks on a Cuban withdrawal and the associated problem of Namibian (South West African) independence. He had been expected to bring with him a new proposal for the parallel withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and South African forces from Namibia. However, US officials said he had made no such proposal.

## Eitan's insults rebound

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A bitter political argument has erupted in Israel over remarks made by the outgoing Chief Lieutenant-General of Staff, Rafael Eitan, who boasted to a Knesset committee this week that, after Israel had further multiplied its West Bank settlements, "all the Arabs will be able to do is scuttle around like drugged cockroaches in a bottle."

A group of 18 left-wing Knesset members, including 10 from the main opposition Labour Party, have written to Mr Moshe Arens, the new Defence Minister, demanding that he reprimand the general and describing his remarks as "a stain on the honour of the Army".

Another deputy, Mr Tzvi Toubi of the Ratzin Communist party, has written to the Attorney General urging him to prosecute General Eitan for "racist remarks".

The controversy began on Tuesday when the Army commander, an officer noted for his outspoken political views, made his farewell visit to the all-party defence and foreign affairs committee, during which he read out a satirical poem dedicated with "respect and contempt" to Mr Yossi Sarid, one of the most dovish members who belongs to the Labour Party.

The supposedly satirical Hebrew verse made reference to people who crawled up the tails of animals and found themselves covered in what parliamentarians later translated as "manure".

Questioned about the recent spate of stone-throwing attacks against Israelis in the West Bank, General Eitan was reported to have told the meeting

he saw no reason why it could not be stopped. "All we need to do is carry on with our settlement effort and increase it," he said. "When 100 settlements are established between Nablus (the largest occupied Arab town) and Jerusalem, there will be no stones thrown at Jews there."

To the astonishment of some committee members, the general - who is due to retire later this week - then added: "When we have settled the land, all the Arabs will be able to do will be to scuttle about like drugged cockroaches in a bottle." His

remarks were later compared by reserve General Matti Peled, a leader of the Israeli peace movement, to the terminology of the Nazis, who frequently referred to the Jews as "rats" and "lice".

The demeaning reference to the West Bank Arabs, combined with the reading of the obscene poem (which General Eitan had apparently composed in advance), have cast a further shadow over the retirement of Israel's second longest serving Chief of Staff. He had earlier been disgraced by the Kahan Commission report.

## Cairo second thoughts on Reagan proposal

From Our Correspondent, Cairo

Egypt is reassessing its commitment to the Reagan plan in the light of the initial failure of talks between Jordan and the PLO on implementing the American proposals, a Foreign Ministry official here said on Thursday. He emphasized that Egypt did not consider the Reagan plan dead, but said: "We have no firm position on it."

Dr Ussama al-Bazz, President Mubarak's chief foreign policy adviser, said on Wednesday that Egypt would "float fresh ideas to reconcile differences between Jordan and the PLO," but the Foreign Ministry declined to say what these ideas were.

Dr al-Bazz was reacting to a statement by Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive, who said in Stockholm: "We shall do our best to continue

these joint talks with the Jordanians."

Asked whether Egypt was prepared to proceed with establishing normal relations with Israel if the Reagan plan died and the Israelis continued building settlements in the West Bank, a Foreign Ministry source replied: "That is a very difficult question." The only condition on the return of Mr Saad Morsi, Egypt's ambassador to Tel Aviv, was a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, he said, but that was only one aspect of normal relations.

● KHALDE: Israeli, Lebanese and United States negotiators resumed talks informally here yesterday in their continuing efforts to secure a withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, AFP reports.

## Stolen kisses in a crowd

A warm kiss on the cheek for the Prince of Wales and a more courtly kiss on the hand for the Princess, darling of the Melbourne crowd yesterday.

The city is the last point of call in Australia for the royal couple who fly to New Zealand on Sunday for a two-week tour. As with every leg of their Australian tour, the Prince and Princess were given a rousing welcome when they arrived at the airport.

During speeches of welcome it was announced that hundreds of deprived and orphaned Australian children will have a special present from the couple when they leave for New Zealand.

The Princess has been given hundreds of toys, books and stuffed animals for Prince William during her progress through the towns and cities of Australia. So the royal couple have decided to give something back. The huge pile of presents will be shared with children in homes and orphanages throughout the land. Mr Victor Chapman, their press secretary, said.

Like the thousands of bouquets the Princess has received during her visit, which are sent to hospitals, government authorities have been asked to distribute the presents to those who would appreciate them most.

Prince Charles assured the Melbourne that Prince William would be "taking back with him countless presents" and would need no more.

Today the royal couple will visit different parts of Victoria

## Algeria 'in £300m arms deal with Britain'

Britain is about to win a £300m arms deal with Algeria, the military journal *International Defence Review*, said in London. It includes six 120ft fast patrol boats from Brooke Marine, of Lowestoft, Suffolk.

The Algerians are also ordering two tank landing ships from Brooke Marine and Vosper Thornycroft, Helicopters, 20 to 30 British Aerospace Hawk jet trainers, and armoured vehicles.

The export agreement, or "memorandum of understanding," has not yet been signed, the journal adds.

## 31,500 Sikhs pledge lives

Delhi (Reuters) - Thousands of Sikh volunteers took vows in the city of Amritsar to sacrifice their lives for their cause in an intensification of the Sikh militant campaign in Punjab. Harchand Singh Longowal, leader of the Sikh Akali Dal party, presided at the oath-taking ceremony which 31,500 took, he said. A force of 100,000 is planned.

## Struggle ends

Bologna (Reuters) - Italy's left-wing Prima Linea (Front Line) guerrilla group, once the most powerful group after the Red Brigades, has abandoned its armed struggle against the state, Signor Paolo Zambianchi, one of its leaders, told journalists while on trial. Last year 87 of its members were jailed for a total of 467 years.

## Finnish bribes

Helsinki (Reuters) - Six executives of the Finnish company Siemens Oy have been charged with bribing officials (between 1975 and 1982) to obtain orders, a public prosecutor said. Officially employed by Helsinki's underground railway and the national post office were also named.

## Russian shot

Moscow (Reuters) - A Russian named only as V. Vecher, accused of taking part in massacres of villagers during the Second World War, has been shot as a war criminal, a Soviet newspaper reported. He was sentenced to death by a Leningrad military court.

## Sicily arrests

Palermo (AP) - Police took into custody 12 people for questioning in connection with the killing on Tuesday of Antonio Sorci, 78, known as Nino the Rich, and his son Carlo. The elder Sorci was a suspected drugs smuggler.

## B52 found

Las Vegas (AP) - An American B52 bomber which disappeared on Monday was found after a two-day search through snow and rain to have crashed into a southern Utah mountainside, killing all seven crew.

## Nuclear leak

Brussels (AFP) - Slightly radioactive water is leaking from the Tihange nuclear power plant in the Ardennes, the operating company Intercom said. The pollution was insignificant and the plant would be shut for about 10 days.

## Trouble at mill

Bombay (Reuters) - More than 1,000 striking textile mill workers, including their leader, Datta Samant, were arrested in Bombay for defying an official ban on demonstrations. They tried to protest outside home of MPs who have yet to join the city's 15-month-old strike.



## The message of Chicago

## American blacks flex their new-found muscle at the polls

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

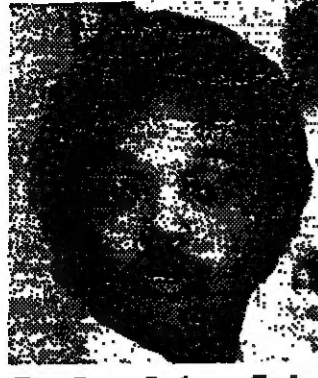
This week's election of Mr Harold Washington as the first black Mayor of Chicago was dramatic confirmation that the black electorate in the United States is becoming an increasingly visible and strategically crucial voting block.

If it had not been for a massive turnout by black voters, who comprise about 40 per cent of the city's registered electorate, Mr Washington would not even have won last February's Democratic primary. Conversely, if Mr Washington had not emerged early in the contest as a viable candidate, then many blacks would not have bothered to vote at all.

The Chicago election has important implications for the Democratic Party as it prepares for next year's presidential elections. Blacks form the single most cohesive element in the Democratic Party coalition, and a massive show of black voting power as witnessed in Chicago this week could enable a Democratic president to move into the White House again in 1985.

However if the party is seen to be leaning too far in an effort to capture black support it will risk alienating the same kind of white voters who moved en masse from the Democratic to Republican camps in the Chicago mayoral contest. The race issue is very much a two-edged sword.

The result also contains important lessons for the nation's black leaders as they discuss whether to field a black presidential candidate in the 1984 primaries. Some believe that Mr Washington's cam-



Rev Jesse Jackson: Seeks "coalition of rejection."

paign, which attracted the support (albeit belated) of most national Democratic Party leaders, proves that black political progress is best achieved by working from within the party. Others, however, among them the black political activist, the Rev Jesse Jackson, maintain that a black presidential candidate is needed not only to symbolize the growing strength of black voters but also to dramatize the plight of blacks and other minorities.

Blacks account for 10.5 per cent of the electorate, yet only 20 out of 435 US congressmen are black. There are no black state governors. Only at city level, in places like Los Angeles, Atlanta, Detroit, Washington and Birmingham, have blacks made it to the top, a fact that reflects the changing demographics of American cities.

However, over the past two years blacks have increasingly started to flex their political muscles.

Just how important the black

vote has become was summed up in a new study by the influential Joint Centre for Political Studies in Washington, which said: "A Presidential Democratic victory in 1984 is inconceivable without a strong black showing in northern cities and the south."

The study noted that the black vote was heavily concentrated in six northern states - Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania - which are of vital importance in presidential elections because of the large numbers of votes they carry.

It is statistics such as these that have persuaded some black leaders that it would be worthwhile fielding a black presidential candidate.

Mr Jackson, president of People United to Save Humanity (Push), who has already been testing the waters in Iowa and Rhode Island, wrote in a recent article that a black candidate would force the Democratic Party to have a greater appreciation of the black vote.

"Eighteen million black voters," he wrote "can be the cornerstone of a new coalition of the rejected (the real silent majority) that can create new political options in 1984."

Others disagree, arguing that a black candidate could divide black leaders and drain support from the Democratic nominee.

The question of a black candidate will not be settled until next month, by which time black leaders will have had time to study how the present Democratic runners propose dealing with issues of special interest to blacks.



## Chaos in Rhineland as floods recede

Bonn (Reuters) - Flood waters from the rain-swollen Rhine began to recede yesterday but officials said it would take weeks to repair damage in Cologne, Bonn and other Rhineland towns.

Much of the historic old centre of Cologne was still under water, swamping restaurants, bars and nightclubs and causing a third day of traffic havoc.

One bar owner, typifying the humour with which residents have adapted to life under 3ft of water, set up bar stools in the street outside his flooded establishment and served beer to the firemen.

Police in Cologne had to set up roadblocks to keep away thousands of sightseers, presiding for a glimpse of the worst floods in 15 years, who were hampering relief workers.

As the floods receded in Bonn, murky water still washed around the entrances to the Bundestag building and in one low-lying part of the capital postmen delivered the mail by boat yesterday.

Flooding also receded in eastern France after five days of widespread inundation in which 12 people were reported to have died. But officials said the situation was still worrying east of Paris where the Seine and Yonne rivers were likely to continue rising for another five days.

West German river police said barge traffic on the Rhine, West Europe's busiest inland waterway, would not resume before Sunday at the earliest.

Rhineland city officials said it was too early to assess the cost of damage but an official in

Koblenz, where flooding was the worst since 1926, said he feared severe damage from heating oil which had seeped out of flooded basements.

Trade and agriculture sources said planting of summer grain crops in West Germany was running three to four weeks behind schedule because of prolonged heavy rain which had waterlogged fields even in areas unaffected by the flooding.

Insurance companies said most flood victims with ordinary household insurance policies would get no compensation but state authorities have promised tax relief.

Telephone lines were cut in parts of Cologne and Bonn and in several villages on the Rhine and Mosel. Agriculture sources said only about half of the planned summer grain crop, usually planted by the end of March, had been sown so far.

In the Mosel valley, a district official said, flood damage to hotels, restaurants and wine cellars would run to millions of marks. Growers in the vineyards of Berncastel and Piesport, which produce world-famous white wines, feared that heating oil could have seeped into the wine barrels.

Flood water had also washed the labels off vintage bottles, making it impossible to identify wines.

In Cologne, officials said the water level should fall back below the city's protective dyke enabling firemen to begin pumping away flood waters. They said a key tunnel on the Rhine side expressway, had been protected from flooding by giant steel gates which withstood the water pressure.

## Oil slick meeting founders

A burning oil well spewing flame and smoke in Iran's offshore Nowruz field, north of Kharg island. The photograph was taken by a crewman on a passing oil tanker.

Wide differences between warring Iraq and Iran yesterday forced a further postponement of talks in Kuwait on capping the shattered Iranian oil wells which have been spewing crude into the Gulf since early March, conference sources said.

Ministers from eight Gulf states, including Iran and Iraq, had hoped to meet in full session in the morning. Amid claim and counterclaim, Iraq said yesterday Iran's latest offensive had been defeated with 9,832 troops killed and "not one inch" of Iraqi land lost.

Earlier Tehran announced that Iranian forces had captured 12 square miles of Iraqi territory and killed 6,400 Iraqi troops in their latest drive.

Tehran radio said another 900 Iraqi troops had been killed or wounded during a counter-attack at dawn on Wednesday.

## Letter from Moscow

## Still a market among Russians for miracles

Just outside Moscow proper, in what used to be the countryside until Khrushchev started expanding the city limits with high-rise flats, there is a miraculous spring. Nowadays it emerges from a metal pipe in a stone wall with a chipped swan in ceramic tiles on it. But the spring is called the "Swan Princess spring" - is held to be legendary.

The name, which goes back to antiquity, or at least the eighteenth century.

On any weekend, whether in the depths of winter or now as the first hint of warmer weather begins to melt the snow and ice, you can see a procession of Muscovites with tin cans and containers wending their way down the woodland path and down steep stone steps to the spring.

The name was once the estate of a nineteenth-century industrialist, who built a grandiose turreted mansion in the grounds. It is now an agricultural institute (and quite obviously a Victorian folly, but there are those who swear Catherine the Great lived in it. Equally, people queuing to fill jugs and containers with the healing waters of the spring say Catherine used to bathe in it (presumably in the summer).

There is a strong streak of the credulous in most Russians, despite the official materialist philosophy and emphasis on science and reason. Many seem to have a powerful desire to believe in legends and folk remedies. As far as is known, the health-giving powers of the "Swan Princess" waters have not been put to the test.

The fact is many Russians are sceptical of modern medicine, and home remedies abound, most of the based on herbal brews which have their origins in Russia's peasant past. Russians place great faith in healers such as the lady who treated the late President Brezhnev. She spawned numerous imitators who claimed to be able to heal through the laying on of hands, and whose customers included five-star generals and top party officials.

But it is the miracle working power of water which has special hold on the Russian imagination. Not long ago a Soviet newspaper exposed an old man and his son who were selling "holy water" at an exorbitant profit in a village in the Ukraine. The paper said their fame had spread far and wide and hundreds of sick people gathered every day to buy holy water (which in fact came from a tap) at five roubles a jug.

The swindlers had accumulated thousands of roubles worth of cash and gold, and boasted eight cars. The old man's reputation for miracle-working had been so great that he had been able to earn in one hour as much as a qualified doctor could make in three months and his patients had ranged from simple people to intellectuals.

It was a sign of the times, the paper noted, that when the two tricksters were arrested most of the people they had "treated" were angry with the authorities.

Richard Owen

## Strikers seize Eiffel Tower

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Medical students in Paris marked the beginning of the third month of their strike yesterday by occupying the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower, while doctors in teaching hospitals announced they would continue with their strike, which has brought chaos to hospitals throughout the country for the past three weeks.

Both groups are protesting against Government reforms aimed at the democratization and reorganization of what is still a highly conservative and elitist profession, and which is suffering from acute over-manning. The number of doctors in France has tripled in the past 20 years, and unemployment is now a serious problem among newly-qualified medical students are

protesting in particular against the introduction of an examination at the end of their sixth year of studies, which they fear, will lead to further selection and disqualification. They are also opposed to government plans to restrict post-graduate specialist training.

Their non-violent actions to publicize their nationwide strike have been imaginative and often spectacular. They have included the release of hundreds of laboratory rats and mice in public buildings; the plastering over of parking metres; the blocking of railway and Metro lines; the occupation of the Strasbourg cathedral spire; the removal of paving stones, to carry out "open-heart surgery" on Paris streets; and the scattering of thousands of nails on motorways.

The strike by an overwhelming majority of junior doctors and senior registrars in teaching hospitals is over planned reforms which, the doctors say, will reduce their status, severely limit promotion prospects, and harm the quality of specialist training thereby leading to an overall long-term decline in the standard of medical services.

Until now doctors have continued to provide a minimal level of service; all emergency cases have been exempt from the strike, having failed to achieve any satisfaction in their talks with the Government.

The Federation of French Doctors said yesterday the situation was becoming alarming. Some hospitals are already operating at less than 50 per cent of their normal level of activity.

## Mitterrand begins Swiss tour

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Economic problems, including the tight currency restrictions on French tourists, loom large in the talks President Mitterrand is having during a crowded 48-hour visit to Switzerland, the first by a French President since M. Armand Fallières came here in August, 1910.

He was greeted at Zurich airport yesterday by his Swiss counterpart, M. Pierre Aubert, also Minister of Foreign Affairs. They went on by special train to Bern, the federal capital. In a formal address of welcome, the Swiss President referred to "friction points" and underlined the need for both governments to "energetically resist the temptations of protectionism". As a trading partner of Switzerland, France comes second only to West Germany and the French account for about 9 per cent of tourists in Switzerland.

The French party includes the Ministers of Foreign Trade and Tourism, who are having separate meetings with their Swiss opposite numbers.

The Swiss public awaits with



Guard of honour: President Mitterrand at Zurich - Kloten airport yesterday.

interest the "symbolic gesture" M. Mitterrand has said he will make with regard to "Napoleon's debt".

This is the claim periodically put forward by Bourg St Pierre, on the road to the Grand St Bernard pass, for payment of a 45,000 Swiss francs bill for food, materials and manpower of which Napoleon's forces

availed themselves when crossing the Alps into Italy in 1800.

While France has maintained this was settled under the 1815 Treaty of Vienna, Bourg St Pierre contends it received only a 15,000 franc token payment, and has successfully exploited its claim in more recent times to keep its name on the tourism map.

## Pisani challenges press over aid to Ethiopia

From George Clark, Strasbourg

Reports in the British press that food aid sent to Ethiopia is not reaching the starving people for whom it was intended and that some had been diverted to the Soviet Union to pay for weapons for the Ethiopian Army were firmly denied by Mr Edgard Pisani, EEC Commissioner for aid to the third world, in the European Parliament yesterday.

Although he did not specify it, his main target were reports from Simon Winchester published in *The Sunday Times*. He produced a bulky dossier which he had received from Addis Ababa on Wednesday and claimed that it contained documentary evidence which showed that the food had reached the starving people, both in the area controlled by the Ethiopian Government and the guerrilla-controlled areas.

He challenged journalists and others to provide evidence to back their claims. They had to acknowledge that Western ambassadors in Addis Ababa and the Asian and African bureau had investigated and found that the distribution was satisfactory.

Mr Pisani said that since January 1981, the EEC had sent 68,000 tonnes of cereals, 7,000 tonnes of skimmed milk and 4,000 tonnes of butter oil to Ethiopia and its distribution had been supervised closely by voluntary aid organizations. It is not true it had gone to feed the Ethiopian Army.

On the allegation that some shipments were transferred to vessels going to the Soviet Union, Mr Pisani declared angrily: "That is not true. Never at any time has anyone produced proof of this."

## Arms bill twenty times bigger than that for aid

From John Earle, Rome

The cost of a nuclear aircraft carrier is more than the gross national product of 53 of the world's poorer countries. World military spending is expanding rapidly and stands at 20 times the total of overseas development aid.

These figures were quoted by Mr Edouard Saouma, director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, in a speech in Rome he appealed for the grain surpluses of the main producing countries to be used to help developing countries to build national reserves against future shortages.

The developing countries themselves, Mr Saouma told FAO's committee on world food security, spend yearly as much on armament imports as on their total food imports.

## Primate defines attitude to women priests

From W P Reeves, Wellington

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said yesterday that he would be willing to take part in Anglican communion services in which women priests were involved, but he would not preside over them.

Dr Runcie said it would not be honest for him to preside jointly over a communion service in which women priests took part.

He said that he was among those who said "not yet" rather than "never" to the ordination of women.

Unlike the Church of England, the Anglican Church in New Zealand ordains women priests.

The Archbishop is due to attend a luncheon with Anglican women clergy in Auckland on April 26.

## China asks New Zealand to buy more

Wellington (Reuters) Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, yesterday discussed possible joint ventures with Mr Robert Muldoon, his New Zealand counterpart.

Mr Muldoon told a press conference after the two-hour meeting that the Chinese leader was interested in more joint ventures in China, but added: "They should be further advanced before I say anything about them."

Mr Muldoon said the talks showed there was clearly a good relationship between the two countries. Mr Zhao had raised the issue of the trade imbalance between the two countries, asking New Zealand to buy more goods from Peking to reduce it. But it was "not a major issue between us", Mr Muldoon added.

## Woolworth building gets landmark status

From Christopher Thomas, New York

The Woolworth Building in Manhattan, tallest in the world from 1913 to 1930 and prototype for the romantic skyscrapers of New York, has been given landmark status, despite the furious objections of its owners.

The majestic Gothic-style spire is now overshadowed by other huge constructions including the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, second-tallest building in the world.

Although not one of the main tourist traps, it remains an important symbol to New York and to twentieth-century America. The opening of the building 70 years ago was when New York started to get outrageous and everything in America started to get big.

It is known as the Cathedral of Commerce and is the world headquarters of Woolworth. Frank Woolworth, the company's founder, ordered it to be built higher than the Metropolitan Tower and it held its place as the world's tallest until the Chrysler Building reached a little higher.

The City Landmarks Preservation Commission, which was too late to protect other beautiful buildings swept away in Manhattan's frenetic bulldoze-and-build routine, also ordered the building's lobby to be preserved.

Woolworth has treated the building well and spent huge sums of money on it. But it has always strongly opposed landmark status as burdensome.

For years, conservationists have been fighting to have the building officially listed, but agencies seemed satisfied that Woolworth was not likely to do anything dire. Their view was confirmed in 1977, when the company started spending \$22m (£14m) on restoring the facade, an enterprise that was completed last year.

But despite such lavish preservation, the commission finally bowed to the increasingly vociferous cries for the structure to be protected from future generations who might not be so munificent.

## Thai voting ends with 13 killed

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

More Thais have lost their lives in the general election campaign than in 10 days of fighting with the Vietnamese on the Cambodian border. Five Thai soldiers died in the fighting, but 13 candidates and canvassers have been murdered during three weeks of campaigning for the election next Monday.

There were six killings on Wednesday alone. A candidate and one of his canvassers were killed when a bomb exploded in their car at Chiang Rai in the north, and four other canvassers were killed in a hail of automatic rifle fire while travelling on a road close to Bangkok.

These incidents are seen by experienced commentators as a sign of the fervour and interest aroused by the election, the thirteenth since the absolute monarchy came to an end in 1932.

Former communist insurgents are among the candidates. They are not standing as Communists Party candidates because communism is still outlawed but they are advocating Marxist policies.

One independent candidate at Sakon Nakorn in the north-east is the son of a local folk hero, Krong Chandasawong, who was executed without trial in 1961 because the Government suspected he was a communist. The son, Mr Witthai, is conducting some of his political meetings in the field where his father was shot.

Another coalition government composed of several political parties is expected to

The new Government is expected to be led by a compromise Prime Minister, possibly General Prem Tinsulanonda, the present holder of that office. General Prem is not a candidate, but that is no disqualification as the Prime Minister needs only the support of a majority in Parliament.

## Argentine parties campaign furiously for members

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

In the past few months, Argentina's political parties have been conducting a furious membership campaign, setting up stalls in the main cities and calling on passers-by to sign up.

Florida Street, in central Buenos Aires, has become something of a democratic microcosm. The Peronists, Radicals, Intransigents, Socialists, and other parties have set up their stands only yards apart.

A small man with a moustache said: "Elections will only make things worse", to a crowd shaking their heads in disagreement. Struggling to make himself heard, he added: "Because we don't have a leader, a man with a clean record."

A second pavement politician interrupted: "Well if we don't have one, let's order a test-tube baby. Anything is better than this." Another voice chimed in: "There are no miracles. The only solution is the organization and struggle of the masses."

The parties' campaign is taking place under a law passed by the military Government last September. To obtain electoral recognition the parties must prove they have a membership of more than four per thousand names on the electoral roll in each district.

For national recognition they need to meet the minimum level in five districts, and achieve a national membership of at least two per thousand of

the electorate. There are 24 electoral districts in the country. The big parties closed their recruitment drive on March 30. Other groupings considered new under the Government's legislation have another two months to gather members. The elections are due to be held on October 30.

It is a complex process. A new member signs four membership cards. He keeps one, the party keeps one, and the others are passed on to the electoral court for verification. There have already been some problems. Some over-enthusiastic citizens seem to be joining various parties. There are also cases of errors in the way the forms are filled in. The membership cards must be labori-

ously cross-checked against the electoral rolls.

A further factor is that the mass parties, the Peronists and the Radicals - have yet to play out their internal struggles. The different factions in these parties are measuring their strength in the recruitment drive. These parties must hold conventions to elect authorities and nominate candidates before the September 10 deadline.

There are no hard figures yet, but some general indications of how the parties are faring. The Peronists claim that they are leading the membership battle, with 1,300,000 cards handed in to the electorate authorities. The Radicals say they are on 800,000 and rising. Among the other parties, the

Movement for Integration and Development, the Intransigent Party, the Communist Party and a handful of others are confident that they will score national recognition. These claims have yet to be confirmed by the electoral authorities.

While some opinion polls give the Radicals the edge in the overall campaign, seasoned political observers expect the Peronists - who have won every election they have been allowed to take part in since 1945 - to gather most votes (bearing a major internal crisis splitting the movement).

In their scenario, the Peronists might end up short of an overall majority, and 1984 could see a coalition government.



# Cinema

## Television

## John Percival



## SPECTRUM

Violent, vigorous and vivid,  
India assaults the western  
sensitivity. Next week,  
Trevor Fishlock ends a  
three-year term as South Asia

Correspondent of *The Times*: a period,  
he writes in his farewell to the region,  
during which 'there has been no dull day'

# Mayhem in a mirror

The newsboy's aim is perfect. He stops his bicycle at the front gate and hurls the morning newspapers across the lawn. They touch down on the verandah and skid into the front door with a bang, startling the mynahs who shriek Reveille in the lime tree and wake the dozing nightwatchman. Unfolded over a cup of tea, the papers present their chronicle of astonishments, contention, confusion, anarchy and change as 700 million Indians grapple with modern times, and each other, in their ancient land.

Three die in police firing, the headlines say. Students riot over film tickets. Police kill Dacoits. Dacoits loot train. Monkeys attack police. Politician beheaded. Harijans beheaded. Harijans raped. Witches beaten to death. Urine from tap. Man leaps from funeral pyre. Pharmacists on indefinite strike. Four-year-old boy sacrificed. In-laws burn bride. Woman changes sex to make another pregnant. Monkey's death plunges town into grief. Gold found in semen. PM urges national unity.

Much mayhem is reported down-pa-ge, for violence is a commonplace, and the maintenance of order, even by ruthless means, is paramount. Police frequently open fire when crowds become frenzied and minor police killings rate only an inch of type. Buses are always crammed, and driven by ruffians, and their numerous crashes, culling people by the score, rate a paragraph or two.

Thanks to the seeping enlightenment provided by education and positive discrimination, some of the 100 million Harijans perceive their oppression more clearly. Of course, they pay for being uppity. The landlords, police and politicians who manage much of rural India with the aid of *lathi*, boot and gun have conservative ideas about social change.

Newspaper majuscules are reserved mostly for politics, the abiding interest of the upper, ruling stratum, and reported prolixity and often impenetrability, so that reading politics is like divining meanings from tea leaves.

Politics in India is about personalities, not beliefs, not right or left. No disgrace is attached to politicians who switch allegiance for cash or access to patronage. In such a power game the policyless Maneka Gandhi can pursue her pique and start a party in the name

of her dead husband to challenge her mother-in-law. Without the name Gandhi the girl would be nothing.

The papers are the main mirrors, for broadcasting is controlled by rulers who fear that free presentation of news would blow air on communal flames as well as shine too bright a light on government. There are few television sets and Indian democracy functions without benefit of box.

Even without television, the hatreds of India's diverse communities seem sometimes to be spontaneously combustible. There is a deep and haunting fear of India splitting, of its centrifugal forces growing more powerful, which is why Mrs Gandhi talks often of unity and invokes the dread image of "the foreign hand", like a scolding mother telling her children the bogeyman will get them if they don't behave.

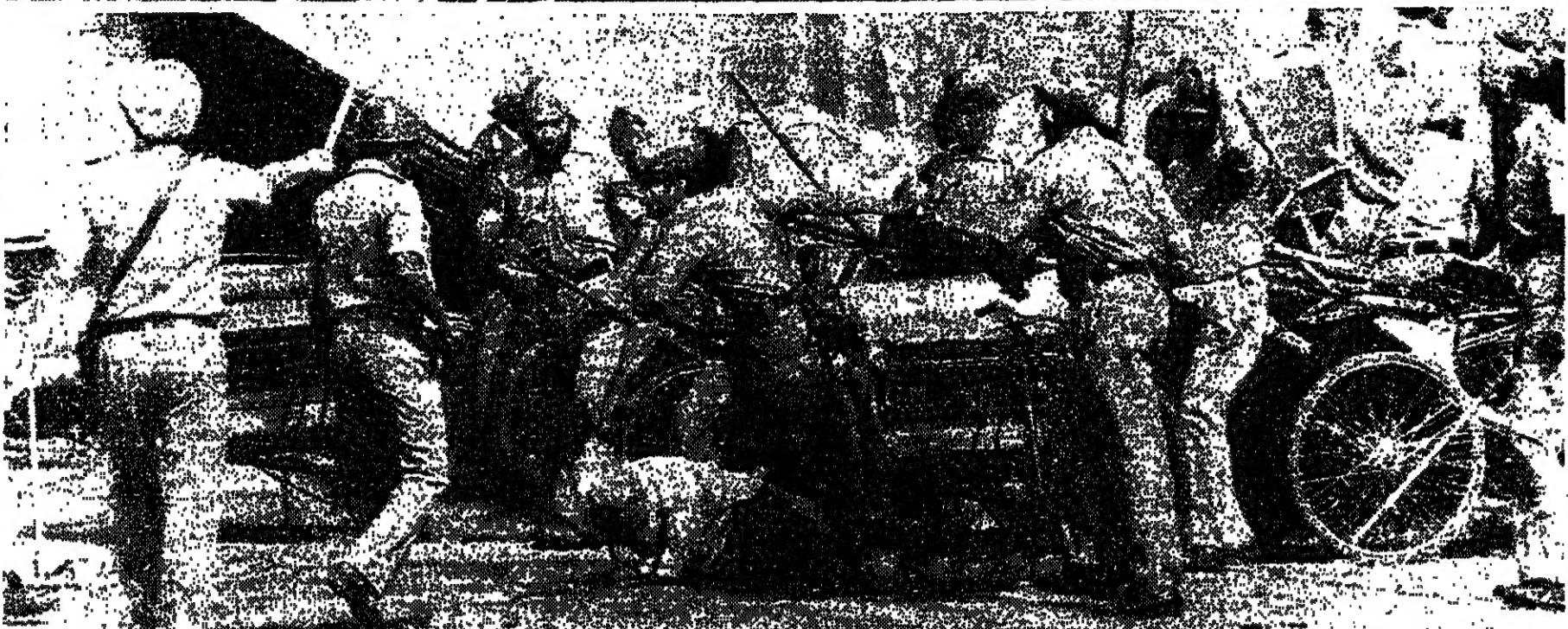
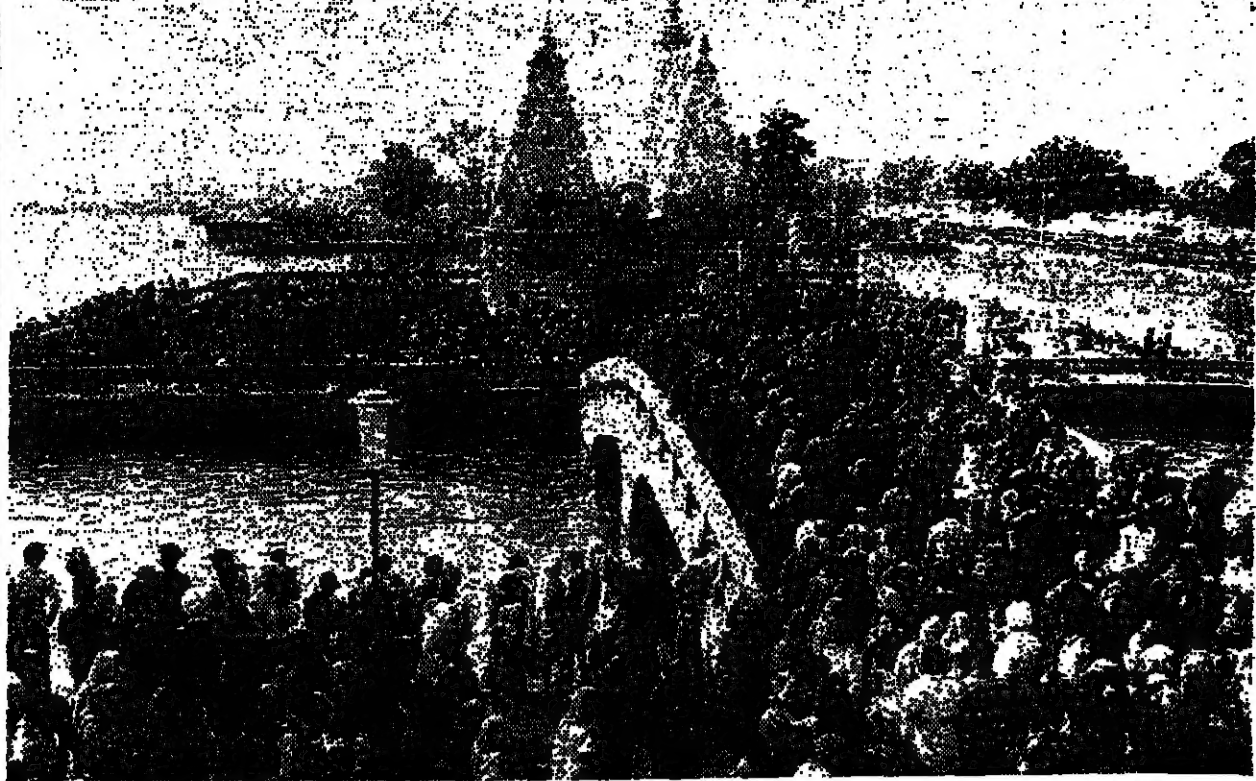


Fragmentation, however, seems unlikely. There is a broad devotion to the idea of the mighty Indian union and its democratic form, and even if Mrs Gandhi's centre cannot hold the union is unlikely to fall apart.

Local troubles are self-sealing rather than infectious. The crises of Assam and Punjab, for example, are contained, and remote from the majority of people in a vast land. The dismal experience of the emergency left Indians more politically aware and convinced of democracy's value. India is also fortunate in having an army free of political ambition.

The papers reveal a country of continuous clamour, of striking imbalances and contradictions. Westerners sometimes romanticize Indian rhythms and values, but Indians themselves are more practical and honest and recognize that theirs can be a cruel and appallingly unjust society. They are their own fiercest critics, railing against their apartheid, repression, feudalism, slavery, jails filled with rotting forgotten prisoners and the terrible pressures of a rapidly growing population on hard-pressed land and resources. It is almost unnecessary to mention something as ingrained and vile as corruption.

There is not much social conscience, and one is struck by a certain heartlessness and selfishness. Life here can be a scramble and a jungle. People



Indian images: top left, Mrs Gandhi; top right, Kurukshetra, where 1½m gathered for a total solar eclipse; above, a battle between Sikhs and police in the Punjab

don't wait, they shove. When the firemen arrived at some burning shops near my home, the shopkeepers competed with bribes to have hoses turned on their shops first. I have seen people attacked by police *lathis* while onlookers hooted with mirth.

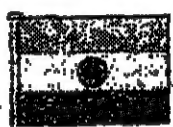
For all the corrosives and contradictions, there are great strengths and stabilizers in Indian society. There are aspects of caste which are abhorrent to institutionalized cruelty and discrimination. But caste, like religion and the emphasis on family, clan and hierarchy, is part of India's backbone.

In his caste a man may find identity, companionship, wife, job, political allegiance, prejudices and code for living. It is his shield in an unequal world.

So, too, is his family, for Indians live in close family groups ruled by respected patriarchs. It is the family that provides the welfare, that even does much of the nursing in hospital. Nepotism is duty rather than sin.

Most marriages are arranged by parents and most children like it that way. Marriage and family are too important to be threatened by the uncertainties of love, choice and youth. The marriage advertisements in the weekend newspapers provide a remarkable insight, dealing as they do with practical matters like income, height and peculiarities of prospective brides and grooms. "Bride wanted for

handsome boy. Has weak eyes but owns posh house." "Bride for Sikh, no turban, but keeps beard neatly trimmed." "Groom for 158 centimetre aristocratic wheatish-complexion girl with touch of whiteness near nails of hands and feet, but on no other place of body. Father top bank executive..."



The extended family has its tensions, but compensations, too. Divorce is rare, partly because expectations

of bliss are lower than in the west, because society is male-dominated and because, with family honour, harmony and property at stake, there is greater support at times of marital friction. But things do go wrong and disgruntled parents sometimes harass their daughters-in-law, and may even set fire to them.

Widows can have a hard time because they are thought to bring bad luck. Superstition is important and cannot be overlooked. Astrology is taken seriously and not much of importance happens in India without the starmongers getting in on the act.

The intertwining of caste, religion and astrology underpin the acceptance of, and submission to, one's earthly lot, and hold the carrot of hope for improvement in the next life. The

forces of caste and religion are part of the mechanism keeping the lower orders supine, which is one reason why India is unyielding granite for revolutionaries.

Indians love to talk about India and confess they find it baffling themselves. The paradoxes are abundant but have to be confronted, like the poverty, indifference and squalor and the grotesque displays of wealth at weddings. The well-off have a horror of poverty: its proximity encourages them to strengthen their walls of financial security. There is a western idea that India is mystic. In reality it is emphatically materialistic.

Its conflicts and contradictions arise not only from the heterogeneity of its peoples - myriad cultures, 15 official languages - but also from the inevitably uneven nature of its development. It occupies both the twentieth century and the Middle Ages. It has research institutes both for space rockets and for bullock carts.

But then India is a land where the western mind, at least, has to adjust to amazement. Bandit chiefs surrender to Government ministers at public ceremonies, the equivalent of a Cockney robber giving up his sawn-off to Mr. Whitelaw at Wembley Stadium.

Indians are justly proud of their country and of its achievements since independence, although some of these are threatened by the problem of

population growth, which has not been seriously addressed and casts a deep shadow. They are touchy about criticism and sometimes rub western fur the wrong way by seeming complacent about the cruelties of their country, and for being ready to hurl stones from their crystal houses. But in these things, as in clerical inefficiency, Micawberism and temporizing, they are merely like most other people.

India offers insults to the senses and sensibilities, and provides profound pleasures for them, too. It makes its daily impact on eyes, nose, ears and stomach. There is heat and dust; there are also mangoes and cool rain.

To be in India is to experience a fortunate adventure, an opportunity to witness a massive struggle for improvement and a dramatic experiment in mass democracy, to observe advances as well as India's shrinking illusions. There has been no dull day, and India has left its vivid imprints.

One day there were insects crawling in the breakfast cereal and I asked the cook to throw it away, along with the packet. In a land where there is little waste, he was scandalized.

"I used to work at British High Commission," he said, "and always the cornflakes are having insects. So we take them onto roof, spread them on sheet and when the sun is hot the insects run away. Then we give cornflakes to the sahibs."

Singer and poet Gil Scott-Heron is an incisive spokesman for black America.

## Satire in search of a dream

Few visitors to Washington DC overlook the irony of black slums stretching back for miles behind the White House. The contrast makes the town a particularly appropriate home for America's leading black satirist and propagandist, Gil Scott-Heron, who is currently performing a series of three concerts at the Commonwealth Institute in London.

His scathing attacks on the American Establishment, half-sung and half-spoken, are backed by a fusion of black and Hispanic musical styles. The power of his vitriol and the infectiousness of his music have won him as many white fans as black.

Politically, Scott-Heron describes himself as a member of the Common Sense Party. Joining any organized group, he suspects, "tends to alienate you from the people you're trying to inform. And I'm an educator, not an organizer."

His manifesto is most tellingly delivered in a song called "B-Movie," written 10 days after Ronald Reagan's inauguration, a witheringly contemptuous but often hilarious look at the system which allowed the Actor-President to be elected by 26 per cent of the registered voters.

Scott-Heron was born in Chicago in 1949, his father a former professional soccer player from Jamaica. His first 13 years were spent with his grandmother in Jackson, Tennessee, where he learnt the blues, his central musical influence. When he moved to New York it was to live in the Puerto Rican district with his mother, a librarian. There he imbibed both urban poverty and street-corner salsa music. Sketching his lanky, languid frame, he explains that this experience "is what made me

the tallest Puerto Rican blues singer in the world".

Scott-Heron interrupted his undergraduate studies (at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania) to publish two novels - *The Future* when he was 19, and then *The Nigger Story*. It was during this period, back in

Manhattan in the late 1960s, that he began to combine the old traditions of New York - jazz and poetry - with newer musical and verbal forms. After completing his BA, Scott-Heron took a Masters degree in American literature at Johns Hopkins University,

bringing him to Washington, where he still lives with his wife and daughter. As his performing career blossomed in the mid-1970s he maintained a post-teaching creative writing at the University of the District of Columbia.

He attributes the failure of the black radical movement in the United States to the attempts of talented organizers, particularly the leaders of the Black Panthers, to become educators and leaders too. Huey Newton and Bobby Seale were not philosophers. Their basic premise was self-defence. But when people started to ask them for a philosophy, they reached for that dialectic and this abstract. It confused more than solidified what their principles were. In America, you don't have to justify self-defence. The principle is simply 'I ain't gonna let these people walk over me any more'.

Despite his reputation and his growing success, Scott-Heron has his critics, characterized by one reviewer who, perhaps unkindly, compared him to "a youth leader laying down the right line". He replies that he was the originator of many of those "right lines".

"We did a song about nuclear power six years before Three Mile Island," he says. "We did an anti-drug song, 'Angel Dust', at a time when other American groups were still pushing drugs on kids. We did a song called 'H2Ogate' 18 months before Nixon resigned. We did 'Johannesburg' before Soweto."

But Scott-Heron's satire - "my main tool" - defies easy ideological categorization. For, as he points out, "if music is universal, so is laughter".

Nick Rosen



Scott-Heron: "I'm an educator, not an organizer"

## Mixed doubles in the name game

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston



I don't know who is in charge of making up the names for international tennis stars, but he does a grand job.

Reading the results of the Portuguese Open on Monday was a sheer pleasure, what with Mats Wilander beating Libor Pimek to get to the final, and Yannick Noah beating Jose Higueras. Even better was the men's doubles final, between Carlos Kirmayr and Cassio Motta, and Pavel Slozil and Ferdi Taygan. Kirmayr and Cassio Motta have the overtones of a couple of cocktails, with Pavel Slozil reminding me more of an East European plum liqueur, but on the whole these are genuine original names, and their inventor is to be congratulated.

But then he has been around a long time, assuming he was also responsible for Wojtek Fibak and Vijay Amritraj, Vitas Gerulaitis and Guillermo Vilas, Jose-Luis Clerc and Ilie Nastase - and was it he or his father who invented the name which first attracted my attention to tennis, Jaroslav Drobný? Only in the English-speaking field has he occasionally been banal, with Stan Smith, Jimmy Connors and Arthur Ashe, though even there he has tried hard, with names such as Roscoe Tanner. And his run of luck in the 1960s with macho Australian names was impressive: Ken Rosewall, Lew Hoad, Rod Laver, Tony Roche. Spot on.

Tennis stands supreme as a provider of names, rivalled only by classical conducting. (Otto Klemperer, Antal Dorati, Geza Anda, Carlo Maria Giulini, Simon Rattle, Zubin Mehta - they could all be fine tennis players, with Radu Lupu a dead cert for the men's doubles.) Motor racing is the only one which ever comes near it, with

its curious penchant for mixed nationalities: Emerson Fittipaldi and Carlos Reutemann, for instance.

British soccer, by contrast, is pathetic when it comes to the provision of names, with the plethora of Garys and Kennys, Trevors and Bobbys, Robsons, Nicholases, Francis, Neal, Wilson, Moore - can we really do no better than this? I sometimes suspect that footballers are allowed to retain their real names, despite the occasional flash of a Luther Blissett or Simon Stainrod, which shows that the old good invention is getting through.

It is only a short step from here to pointing out that British tennis suffers from the same desperate lack of creativity. Does British tennis not avail itself of the service that provides names for everyone else? That is the only explanation I can think of for the presence in the past of Mark Cox, Roger Taylor, John Lloyd and Sue Barker, and in the present of no one in particular. When have the British ever produced a name like Evonne Goolegong or Martina Navratilova? No wonder Wimbledon cannot produce a British winner. It isn't the coaching at fault. It's the names.

With this in mind, Moreover Enterprises intend to sponsor a summer camp for future British tennis stars. Anyone can apply, as long as they have a match-winning name. Already we have one or two talented youngsters coming through, such as Bentwood Tarquin, Jerome Barrington-Oyster, Kalp Chinstar, Wilson Slazboys and Fletcher Henderson.

On the girls' side, we have already enrolled Kim Burling-

ton-Danes, Anaesthesia Ratule, Malvina Cortois, Euphorbia Stakleys and Blossom Rossini. Their tennis can come later - anyone can learn to play tennis - but their names are winners already. I look forward to hearing from others.

That this is not an idle pipe-dream is shown by further study of last Monday's *Times*. Under the Portuguese tennis report by Rex Bellamy there is a dispatch by Lewine Mair (at least our tennis writers have fitted themselves out with good names) on the British junior

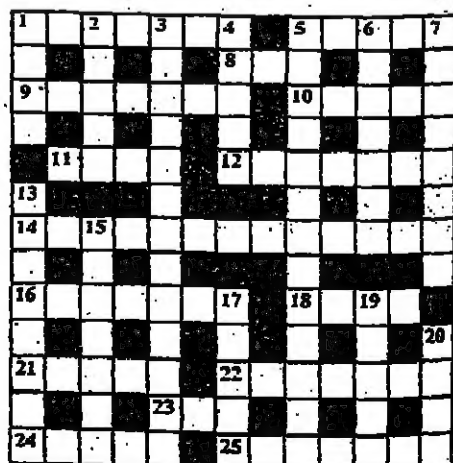
championships, and I am delighted to see that she gives pride of place to the champion British girl, Shelley Walpole. Shelley Walpole! There's a name to beat the world with. I wish I had made it up myself.

Next week in SPECTRUM: Two extracts from Robert Fisk's *In Time of War* reveal Churchill's plan for Irish unity and Hitler's strategy for the invasion of Ireland

### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 39)

ACROSS  
1 Arouser (7)  
5 Mous (5)  
8 Needle hole (3)  
9 Sugar (7)  
10 Marketplace (5)  
11 Pierce (4)  
12 Made of clay (7)  
14 Introduces wrongly (13)  
16 Cornical scar (7)  
18 Sway (4)  
21 Witch's oath (5)  
22 Nasty party (7)  
23 Down wind (3)  
24 This day (5)  
25 Shreds (7)

DOWN  
1 Border (4)  
2 Tribunal (5)  
3 Awkwardly (13)  
4 Manorial steward (5)  
5 Car seat attachment (4, 9)  
6 Water bird (7)  
7 Identify disease (8)  
8 Kitten (5, 3)  
9 Goaded (7)



SOLUTION TO No 38

ACROSS: 1 Poetium 5 Poetry 8 Ago 9 Heaven 10 Strict 11 Goat 12 Gorgeous 13 Terror 15 Cavity 17 Ghanaian 20 Neat 22 Rustic 23 Sought 24 Ut 25 Stayer 26 Afford  
DOWN: 2 Odcon 3 Inviter 4 Manager 5 Poner 6 Eyrie 7 Recount 14 Exhaust 15 Canasta 16 Venture 18 Netty 19 Incur 21 Abhor  
(Solution to No 39 on Monday) The dictionary recommended is the New Collins Concise



## FRIDAY PAGE

## The Boss behind Honeybunch

In the bullet-proof parsonage where Eileen Paisley helps to pen her husband's fighting words, new red roses and old love letters keep romance alive

She calls him Honeybunch or My Sunshine and he calls her The Boss. Even after 26 years of marriage they can hardly bear to be parted and will telephone each other on the slightest excuse from the other side of the world; or he will send a dozen red roses. They are as much in love as when they were eager young minister and church typist snatching moments alone in a draughty manse.

They live in a tree-lined Belfast suburb in an imposing house with an armed police checkpoint in the drive and 30ft rocket screens at the bottom of a garden guarded by a fierce concrete gnome.

They are, of course, the Rev Ian Paisley and his remarkable wife Eileen, who opened the back door to me after a few minutes careful observation through one-way security glass. All doors are reinforced with a thick layer of bullet-proof armour.

A smile spread as she recalled her first meeting with her husband 33 years ago: "I was only 17 and right from the start Ian was the most romantic of men. For him it was love at first sight and he proposed on our third date."

After proposing Mr Paisley was kept waiting on his knees, speechless for perhaps the only time in his life: "I was so surprised I just sat there for a minute or two in silence. He had really swept me off my feet. I don't know what I saw in him, it was just there."

He always sent me flowers and love letters which I still have. In the letters he wrote not so much poetry, not rhyming poetry, but some very nice things. In the large comfortable sitting room with its piano, electric organ and family Bible, pictures of the couple smile down from the walls.

"Ian was so sure we should get married, everything was always so clear to him. He had dates before but people usually date around at first. When he was away a lot on missions I never went out with anyone else like the other girls, though I doubt if any of the boys would have risked going out with Ian."

"Our love has really grown from that time and Ian is one of the most sensitive of men. It would be not going too far to say we are inseparable. We have a great marriage—and to think I imagined I was going to be just a country clergyman's wife!"

Instead she has been shot at, blown up and even stoned. "When I was a Belfast City councillor I went to open some new council houses and there was a republican demonstration. It was crazy, I had just voted against their rents going up, but they were so angry that the security men said we should sneak out the back way. Not in my city, I said. We faced them and I was hit five times and came home with bruises. It was like something from the Bible."

She has been caught in cross-fire while driving home after a meeting and has seen the sickening aftermath of many bombs. "After one particular bomb I could not hear for a week."

"They have said if they cannot get my husband they will get me—especially after Maire Drumm, the IRA leader, was killed. But I believe we are mortal until God's work is done and obviously he has more for us to do. They just missed Ian once, and I do worry when he goes out."

"But it's no use running to the bank every morning to see if your money is still there. I put myself and my family in God's hands. If I lost them all I would still think it part of His plan." She now works so closely with her husband in his roles as MP for North Antrim, church leader and head of the Democratic Unionist Party, that she could continue if anything happened to him. It is all very honestly as one sinks into the large family sofa, but appearances can be deceptive and I started to have the same uneasy feeling as in my dentist's well-appointed waiting room. Whatever Eileen Paisley says about her Honeybunch, his violent words have been the overture to each new cycle of the present troubles, words which this mild-mannered Belfast matron helps to write.

The very name Paisley can inspire loathing from even the most moderate. "He is a rabble rouser," Lord Soper told his fellow peers after a Paisley rally. "He has a raucous approach and a dogmatic gesture. He is duping a lot of simple people." The Methodist leader, with uncharacteristic venom, described Paisley's academic award from the Bob Jones University of South Carolina as "a self-inflicted disgrace".

And the pictures of Protestants grimly drilling on windy hillides as

part of the MP's sinister Third Force, each with a current firearms certificate, do not exactly smack of Christian charity. But to Eileen Paisley her husband can do no wrong. She is as loyal as Caesar's wife, and far more able.

She smiles when I tell her a fellow Protestant described her relationship with Ian as Duty and The Beast. "He would laugh at that one, he has a great sense of humour. But quite honestly the best way I can serve Ulster at the moment is by helping him and having been a councillor I can take a lot of weight off his shoulders." She works in his Stormont office on everything from drafting speeches to visiting the bereaved.

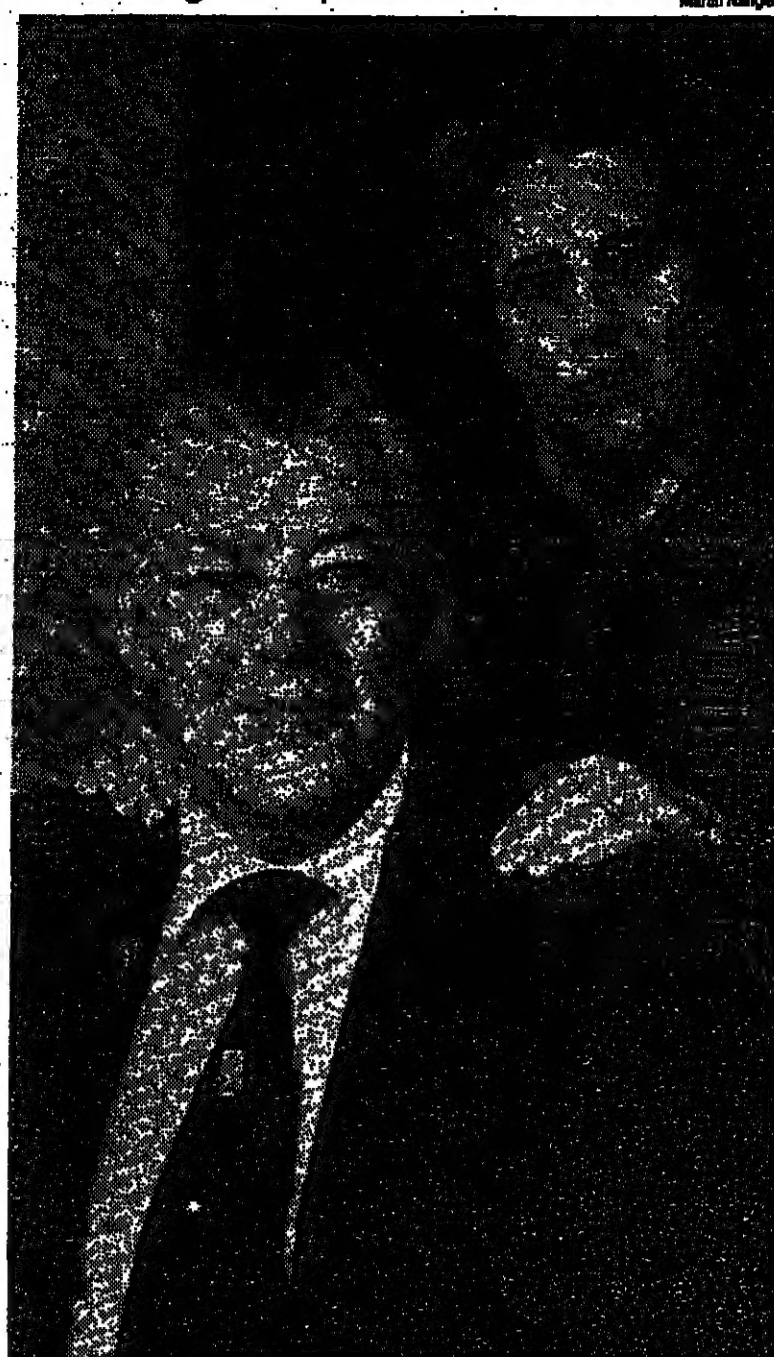
Eileen recently took her husband's place in an anti-IRA "truth crusade" to America when he was refused entry. A grocer's daughter, and educated at a formidable Belfast institution called Miss Elliott's, she took the tour in her stride.

The couple begin and end every day praying out loud and Eileen talks to God while driving the car, or dusting: "People think God is an austere man with a big whip to keep us down. But he is the God of love, or he would not have sent His son to die for us. If someone said to me 'Let one of your sons die for the sins of Ulster' I would not do it."

They have five children, Sharon, 25, Rhonda, 23, who is studying art in America, Cherith, 17, and twins Kyle and Ian, 16. "We are not strict and this place is open house to their boyfriends and girlfriends. I would be disappointed if one of them suddenly joined the Communist Party but it would be no use saying no."

There was little evidence of Marxist leanings in the TV room. Ian was reading a devotional book while Kyle and Cherith were watching a Cliff Richard film. "Their father likes cowboys best and we tape them for him; his favourite is True Grit with John Wayne. He loves to be home." The Paisleys neither smoke nor drink alcohol.

There political and religious crusades around the world are reflected in a magic collection of bird-a-brace from four continents. Wooden crocodiles bark in the fire place, in the hall is a tapestry from Australia, jewelled elephants from India bound across bazaar



Eileen Paisley at home with the Bark of Belfast

tables and on the wall is a collection of spoons from just about everywhere. There is a Victorian exuberance about the house which transcends taste: "Ian has phoned me from all of those places," adds Eileen, proudly.

Indeed, he rang at that moment from London to inquire about the health of his 13-year-old Afghan boyhood friend, who is at the vet's.

"My husband has been called a fanatic because he feels the strength of what he is saying. He has a big thunderous voice and it must be

loud; it would not work if it were soft," she says.

His strength of oratory comes in part from trusting in God but also from the honey and cider vinegar Eileen makes him take every morning, in case his throat gets dry. "Where would Ulster's guard dog be without his bark?" quipped a Belfast cabbie. No doubt he would manage somehow, but he would be completely adrift without the quiet help of Eileen Emily Paisley.

Paul Pickering

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

## When jet lag has no chance



TWA's plan to run a daily round-trip service to New York for business men, announced last week, makes good medical sense even if the commercial viability remains to be seen.

Dr Frank Preston, director of British Airways Medical Services, reminds us that the health advantages of a short stop-over have been a selling point for Concorde since BA first used it for their own there and back in a day service six years ago.

During such a short visit, he says, the body just does not have time to come under the influence of the new time zone. The visitor stays at British time and is capable of maintaining peak performance in business meetings.

Decide to stay over, however, and Dr Preston recommends a more cautious approach. It is essential, he says, for anyone attending an important meeting to give him or herself one or two days before starting work. The best course: arrange to arrive in the evening local time, refuse all offers of hospitality and go to bed with a mild sleeping tablet.

## Just a thought

Since the outbreak of the mysterious disease which is still gripping the Israeli occupied West Bank, doctors have been puzzling over two different questions.

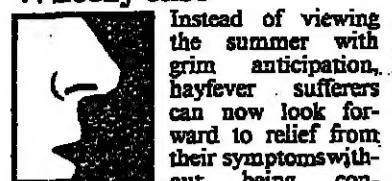
What caused the outbreak in the first case, and why has it spread so quickly and affected so many people? Political tension has added to their difficulties. Whether the underlying cause can be traced to bottles found at the school where the first girls were taken ill remains to be seen.

One hypothesis put forward to explain the rapid spread of the illness is "mass hysteria", which can be understood if you think in terms of ideas which affect behaviour being transmitted from person to person.

Mass hysteria in the twentieth century has tended to involve groups of young women at schoolgirls, with food poisoning as a common suggested cause. An example of the difficulty of diagnosing mass hysteria followed an outbreak of an unusual feverish illness at the Royal Free Hospital in London in 1970. Nurses were affected and some doctors thought it must be an infection

because a number of patients had swollen lymph glands, though an infectious agent was never isolated. Others decided it must have a psychological origin, even though young children who would be normally unlikely to mimic symptoms were also affected. Most likely, it was a mixture of the two.

## Wheezy ease



Instead of viewing the summer with grim anticipation, hayfever sufferers can now look forward to relief from their symptoms without being condemned to a season under sedation.

More than two and a half million people in Britain get wheezy and itchy and develop a runny nose in spring and summer because they are allergic to pollens in the air. When the pollens are inhaled the sufferers' bodies release abnormally high levels of histamine, and this chemical causes the symptoms.

Until recently those who wanted to drive, needed to work heavy machinery or simply had to be alert for business or exams were forced to suffer because the only drugs available to combat the histamine also caused drowsiness.

Now, however, two antihistamines which cannot get into the brain, and hence are without sedative side effects have been developed.

The drugs, Triludan from Merrell Pharmaceuticals and Hismanal from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, are available on prescription from a doctor. Triludan, in tablet form for adults and children over six, was launched last year. From this month a suspension of the drug for youngsters who find that easier to take is also available. Hismanal, marketed just in time for this year's hayfever season, can be prescribed only for adults and children over 12.

## Bristol fashion

Breast-feeding mothers who come across the latest device to help them artificially express their milk can be assured that it was designed with their interests at heart despite its tongue in cheek name.

American-born designer William Sponsel, who is a medical student at Bristol University, has called his invention the Bristol Breast Pump. He says he wanted to acknowledge all the help he and his family have received from staff at Bristol. "I just thought it was appropriate that everyone should share in it if it caught on."

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

## Sleeping pills: the doses and the dangers

## A young death that broke no law

Deydai Jones

On January 31, the day that her mother was due back from a fortnight's holiday, seventeen year old Louise put the finishing stitches in a tapestry cushion cover which was to be a welcome home present and made sure that part of a coffee cake she had baked was set aside for the returning traveller. Some time too during that day she swallowed the Normison capsules that killed her.

Her mother, Theo, may never know the name of the doctor who prescribed these pills. It's probable that Louise found her family doctor off duty, so it could have been any GP in Central London who, faced with a schoolgirl claiming rather frantically that she could not get a good night's sleep, reached for a prescription pad without paying much attention.

At the inquest, the coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, recording a verdict of misadventure, thought that Louise had probably taken a small overdose to feign illness and so avoid going to school. Yet although the pathologist, Professor Keith Simpson, suggested that Normison was an unusual drug to prescribe for such a young girl, the coroner decided not to pursue the case further.

Professor Simpson agreed that it seemed unfair to pin the offence on any one doctor. He acknowledged that doctors tend to prescribe doses that are much too large, that such a highly-strung girl should perhaps not have been given any kind of drug but that such things are "wrong but not unlawful".

As things stand, anyone over sixteen can walk into any doctor's surgery and walk out again with a prescription with no questions asked, no tests taken.

Louise's family would very much like to identify the doctor,



Louise: anguish behind a carefree smile

if only to prevent such a tragic accident happening to someone else's daughter, but the pill bottle, through which both pharmacist and doctor could be traced has somehow vanished between hospital and laboratory and courtroom and Theo's two letters to the coroner pleading for the return of the bottle have so far remained unanswered.

In the normal way of things Louise would not have fitted Professor Simpson's description "highly-strung" but the weeks before her death were not in the normal way of things. She was in the throes of intense revision for her forthcoming A-level examinations in History and Biology, a time, according to her friends at St Paul's Girls' School, when sound judgment is suspended.

"It could have been any one of us," one school friend told Louise's mother. "You reach a stage when the world revolves around the history essay you've failed to deliver."

This group of girls, like Louise, had given up serious

boyfriends and any kind of a social life and the desperate concentration on exams may have added to the panicky atmosphere. Yet photographs, like the one on this page, taken just a few weeks before Louise died, show a beautiful, laughing girl who is very much her normal, extrovert self.

Louise's schoolfriends shared her problem of sleeping badly and their condition was summed up by St Paul's High Mistress, Heather Brigstocke, who told Louise's mother: "Adolescence is a disease."

Indeed, the lack of sleep and consequent nervousness may have made Louise feel genuinely ill. Theo said: "We're a very close family, anyone could tell you that. We all love, one another, we never have rows. But because Louise was getting a bit snappy about her homework, I thought it would be more fun for her to be with Elizabeth, her older sister, while I was on holiday."

Twenty-three year old Elizabeth, a former head girl of St

Paul's, moved back home to stay with Louise and was firm but sympathetic towards her youngest sister, who seemed to take rather a lot of time off school, saying that she felt sick.

After three continuous days of absence, Elizabeth advised Louise to see a doctor but not to get any pills. Like her mother, Elizabeth prefers natural remedies and the family medicine chest rarely has so much as a bottle of aspirin on its shelves. It was then that Louise, finding her own doctor unavailable, went elsewhere and returned with the Normison. Elizabeth thinks that she kept quiet about this "because she probably thought I'd be cross".

The following Monday, Louise pleaded sickness again and Elizabeth pointed out that their mother, on her return that evening, would be upset by this skiving. But Louise rang the school, explained that she was not well and went back to bed. Before shutting her bedroom door, she told Catherine, the daily help, that she was very tired and wanted to sleep in.

When her body was discovered early that evening, she was rushed to St Stephen's Hospital in the Fulham Road, where a doctor, on seeing there was nothing to be done, said: "These seventeen-year-olds; it's happening all the time."

Theo thinks that the most likely thing is that Louise was desperate for a good sleep. "She was a very spontaneous girl and didn't think things through. It's so easy at that age to lose a proper sense of judgment. She behaved thoughtlessly, foolishly, impetuously and really very, very stupidly but she had this weapon — a potentially lethal drug — which she didn't understand."

Penny Perrick

## Friendly mistletoe

From E. C. L. Butler, 30 Mayfair, Post Hill, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4NQ.

In the letter (Talkback, March 26) Drs Anderson and Philipson quote from your Modern Times column of March 24 "mistletoe is good for headaches". They point out that "mistletoe contains at least four classes of particularly nasty compounds". It is generally recognised that the berries from this plant are not to be used so one assumes that the writers were referring to the leaves. Jean Palaiseul, a French naturalist writing in *Grandmother's Secrets*, a recent Pelican book, says that mistletoe was in olden days used medicinally as the standard antispasmodic and

was particularly recommended for persons suffering from high blood pressure. He adds that modern research has shown that it is an excellent natural remedy for arteriosclerosis and high blood pressure because of its action on the vaso-motor nervous system and that it is therefore included in various patent medicines; also that it features in a method of cancer treatment known as "viscum therapy" which originated in Switzerland. A German publication states that mistletoe should be gathered between October and December or in March or April and agrees generally with M Palaiseul.

It would be interesting to have further comments from those with a scientific knowledge of the subject.

## THE TIMES Saturday

THE INDISPENSIBLE WEEKEND GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

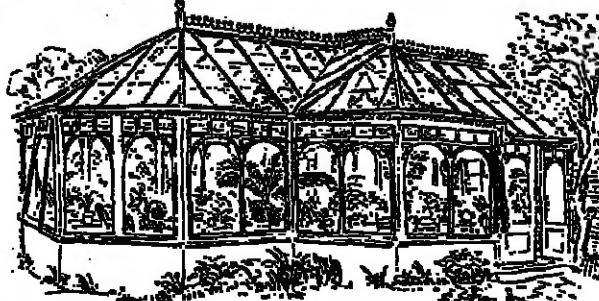
Each week, The Times gives you the best selection of how to enjoy yourself. In tomorrow's edition:



● How to switch on to the Royal Family in your living room



● Real ale: Has the great beer revolution gone flat?



Plus

How to make your garden grow; Portuguese wines; the new Wisden for cricket fans; Family Life on reptiles and spiders; Critics' choice of the best in films, theatre, galleries, classical music, rock and jazz, dance, opera and films on TV; bridge; chess and the top guide to The Week Ahead in arts and entertainment

● Travel: The myth and magic of Kos; and how to serve up a tennis holiday with Bjorn Borg



● Theatre: Back to school with Angela Brazil's childhood classic

● Values: How to extend your lifestyle with a Victorian conservatory

## TALKBACK

## The bright side

From Mrs Sheila Utting, 21 Curzon Place, Hazlet, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2PQ. With reference to Mrs Doreen Darby's letter (Talkback, April 8) may I offer advice to the millions of readers who suffer from distressing but not life-threatening complaints.

I spend four days each week incapacitated by migraine and it is easy to lie in the dark swamped by self pity. The way to tolerate the kind of life imposed by my own problem is to concentrate on the quality of the three days in which I am well.

To focus on the days, hours, even minutes when free from pain or suffering can give a more positive and beneficial outlook. Relaxation whilst in an attack is a positive action — it is difficult to achieve but the attempt itself is worthwhile for success brings a sense of achievement.

I find inspiration and comfort in the memory of the late Sir Barnes Wallis who, speaking on radio, said that one third of his life had been given up to migraine — how much he achieved in the remaining two thirds!

Merely we have to be strengthened by overcoming the problems caused by adversity. Maybe we can be the ones who will inspire others.



## THE TIMES DIARY

### Lower the boom

Concorde, the superjet, is going into the package holiday business. Only on Wednesday night the plane started in BBC 2's QED, which breathlessly followed a first-class supersonic flight to New York, but now Thomson Holidays has completed a deal with British Airways to use Concorde to carry package holiday tourists to or from Cairo. The package, with one flight by more pedestrian jet, will cost about £900 for 14 days' half-board, and will be a feature of Thomson's Winter Sun brochure to be launched in May.

British Airways itself is using the plane for a two week tour of the United States in August which it is billing as the "ultimate holiday" but for that even the cost is spectacular: £8,000.

### Paxton Americana

The Americans are after another bit of our heritage, the Crystal Palace, 47 years after it was burnt to the ground. They want to rebuild it in Dallas. Just as the original palace was used at the Great Exhibition of 1851 to display the miracles of the industrial revolution, the Dallas version is intended to house computers. There will have to be some modifications. Air conditioning will be installed, instead of central heating, and the glass will be darkened to reflect the Texas sun. The American architects have sought advice from the Crystal Palace Foundation, formed four years ago to study the history of the palace, about the technical details of Sir Joseph Paxton's design. The foundation's chairman, Barry McKay, says: "We are amazed and delighted that anyone should want to rebuild it. It is going to cost them forty million dollars."

### Costly move

David Pearce, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, was at a planning appeal yesterday about the future use of the society's own headquarters, a listed and, the staff insist, pretty ancient, building in Great Ormond Street.

The SPAB is moving to a fully restored eighteenth century building in Spitalfields, which is to be opened on May 24 by Tom King, the Environment Secretary. It has put its Bloomsbury property on the market, but Camden council had refused an application for some of the offices to be turned to commercial use. Unless yesterday's planning appeal succeeds, the society fears it will not be able to finance its new headquarters, for which an appeal for funds has already been launched.

Arriving from Vienna at Heathrow Terminal 1, Jan Morris, the travel writer, put 50p into a change machine to make a telephone call. In exchange she got three Maltese and two Irish coins. She used one of the Maltese coins to phone home, and used the others to ring home to Wales.

### On the scent

Readers have again fulfilled my faith that they know everything. My story of the Australian underground orchid, first recorded 1982, then thought extinct and now rediscovered by satellite, received several ready explanations. Admittedly a few of you were as puzzled as I was, especially when in the paper the word "extinct" appeared as "exciting". This makes it less easy to complain that in the report I was referring to the year of the orchid's discovery, 1928, had been printed "1982". John May of Steyning tells me the satellite concerned is the American Landsat D, whose data identified the undisturbed bushland where the orchid might be found.

The orchid has pale pink, vanilla scented subterranean flowers and it is still a mystery how it pollinated. Dr Richard Warren of Edinburgh supplied the plant's botanical name, *Rhizanthella gardneri*, and the fact that its discovery was reported in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia, 1928. John Ainsworth of Manchester volunteered that there is another underground orchid - but I beg to think people were trying to blind me with science.

### Marking time

Somewhere between the crucifixion and the resurrection the electricity failed in Warsaw's Atheneum Theatre and Alec McCowen's epic one-man recital of *The Gospel According to St Mark* was plunged into satanic darkness. McCowen had flown from London for the one-night performance to initiate a series of theatrical and musical events designed to thaw the freeze in Anglo-Polish cultural relations. One can forgive McCowen for wondering whether the Russians cut off the power for sitting a few feet away in the front row was an actor who has made his reputation playing Lenin, to whom he bears a disquieting resemblance.

There is consternation at the Algonquin in New York, where Hamlet II, successor to the hotel cat immortalized in Val Schaffner's book, has been missing for three weeks. Coast-to-coast appeals from all over the States, but no cat. At first it was thought that Hamlet had gone for a stage career at the nearby Plymouth Theatre, "but they were only casting a kitten", says Andrew Aschapel, the Algonquin's managing director. Another theory is that Hamlet eloped with a she-cat from the New York Yacht Club. If so it will be a platonic affair. Hamlet is neutered.

# Animal abuse: the vets' dilemma

by David Coffey

A cascade of dubious concern over animal welfare has in recent years prompted the British Veterinary Association to manufacture more hardware for its war of political intrigue - namely more committees. Committees have examined the export of live animals for slaughter, the battery system and veal calves, with little noticeable effect on the welfare of the animals. Now a subcommittee is to consider laboratory animals; it is a safe prediction that it will do no more than tinker with the tinsel around the package of established practice.

A few years ago the animal welfare committee was conceived, presumably to coordinate the views of the various professional factions and to advise the BVA on welfare matters. This committee was no exception to the rule. Peopled by part-time politicians pushed into office, it has lamentably failed to fire the imagination.

It has, for example, given much tongue to the detrimental effects of arguments in the hands of small boys, while it has studiously ignored the adverse welfare consequences of shotguns manipulated by rather older lads.

The difficulty facing the profession results from its chronic condition - corporate schizophrenia. While it has always claimed to be principally interested in animal welfare it has in fact been subservient to its clients.

As long as there was no conflict between the farmer's expectations and that of the veterinary surgeon - healthy stock kept under traditional systems of management - the professional ethic remained unchal-

lenged. Veterinary surgeons judged the welfare of their patients simply in terms of physical well-being, taking their psychological state for granted. Our understanding of the complexities of the animal mind has in recent years been greatly enhanced by the relatively new science of animal behaviour. This growing awareness has sadly been confounded by the technological revolution which has permitted, indeed encouraged, the intensification of animal management systems, on the farm and in laboratories, which ignore their psychological needs.

Our dilemma as veterinary surgeons is clear. Should we retain our professional status, subservient to the agricultural and pharmaceutical industries whose declared and sole objective is profit, and insure for ourselves a reasonable income? Or should we try to ascertain the limits of abuse to which animals can reasonably be subjected, in order to provide them with adequate welfare standards?

If, as I hope, we opt for the latter, it will be necessary to establish a general concept of animal welfare. While science can make important contributions, happiness, contentment, frustration and pain are important subjective experiences which cannot be objectively identified or quantified. Nevertheless most reasonable people would accept that such feelings probably exist in animals, as they would concede that animals feel hunger and the need for sexual fulfilment.

Some years ago a detailed report of a working party convened by the Very Rev Dr Edward Carpenter, Dean of Westminster, entitled "Animals and Ethics" was presented at a press conference. The compilers included eminent theologians, veterinarians, ethologists, agriculturalists and members of the Animal Welfare Movement. While it would be foolish to pretend that this was the definitive concept of animal welfare it was certainly worthy of consideration. The presidents of both the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the BVA haughtily declined to attend.

If the BVA wishes to be taken seriously as a participant in the discussion on animal welfare it has to assume more humility and consider the subject in much greater depth.

The veterinary profession has a fine record of service to animals, however hamstrung it may have been by the need to earn a living. Many members are well aware of, and subscribe to, the need to consider the psychological as well as the physical needs of domesticated animals or those kept in captivity, and they could make a considerable contribution to the general discussion. It will indeed be a shame for the profession as well as for the animals if that knowledge and concern is stifled, shackled and finally submerged by a small group of the profession's politicians whose real objectives and motivation are often obscure.

The author is a veterinary surgeon and former research officer at the Ministry of Agriculture.

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### Geraldine Norman on the inside dealing over the Sotheby's bid

## Going but not quite gone to Cogan and Swid

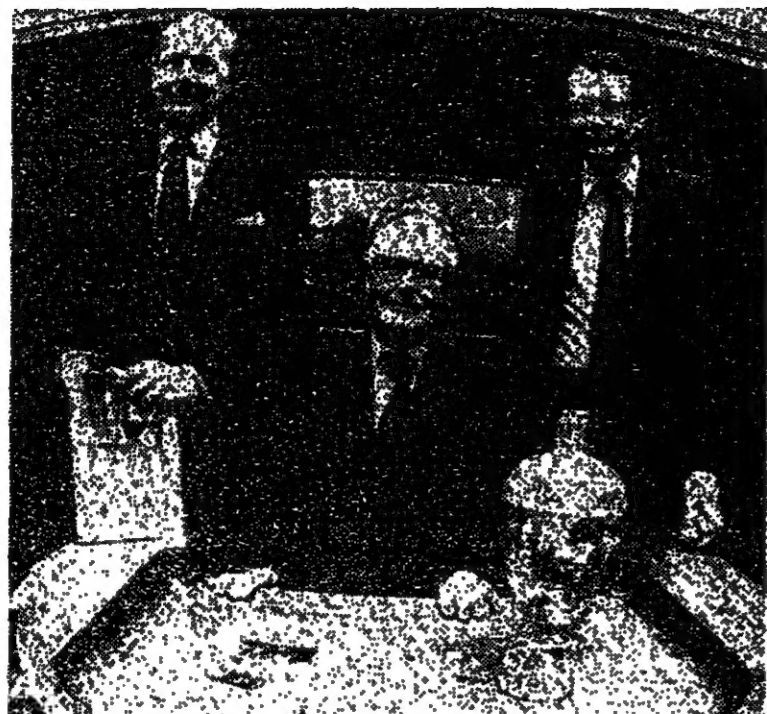
Sotheby's have discovered a word to describe the absence of sympathetic understanding that is lacking between themselves and the unlikely named Americans Mr Cogan and Mr Swid, who are trying to buy the whole Sotheby's empire for \$100m.

It is synergy, defined by Webster as meaning "combined action or operation (as of muscles or nerves)". Sotheby's say there is a lack of it between themselves and the American bidders.

Nerves, not to mention raw emotion, are showing in both camps as the Americans try to muscle in. Graham Llewellyn, Sotheby's chief executive, has been letting his passion show when speaking to the press in comments such as "we wouldn't recommend the offer at any price" or "I'll blow my brains out if they succeed". Julian Thompson, who was appointed UK chairman last year, and who knows more about Chinese porcelain than almost anyone else in the world, looks white and drained as he makes a superhuman effort to discuss the issue without emotion.

That is the picture in Sotheby's Bond Street headquarters where the serious conversation between small huddles of friends lapses into silence as a speaker is allowed to let loose. Spoken words are officially permitted to communicate with the outside world, one for the management and one for the staff.

About 130 of the expert staff in London have told the Americans, in a letter which seems to stem from very senior levels in the company, that a takeover would cause them "immediately to consider alterna-



Graham Llewellyn, Gordon Brunton and Julian Thompson of Sotheby's: no reserve.

tive employment". The management pressed this home when they met Cogan and Swid last Sunday, pointing out that experts might resign en masse and set up a new auction operation, collaborate with an existing auctioneer to build the business or leave individually and join rival dealers. So far no attempt seems to have been made to concert a strategy. Indeed one is quickly told of the legal barriers preventing employees forming a steering committee or, indeed, taking any action that might damage the business that employs them.

Half a mile away, in a rented suite in Park St, Marshall Cogan and Stephen Swid are visibly shaken by the freezing reception they have had from Sotheby's board and the ferocity with which the firm is fighting to keep them out.

"He's the smart guy. I'm the good looking one", says Swid, explaining the double act. "It is a matter of 'Marshall and I think...' or 'Stephen and I decided...'". They make it very clear that their bid for Sotheby's is not a matter of one company taking over another but a personal matter of two men who have seen a great international

business in trouble and want the excitement of putting their own business talents to work to sort it out. "We're winners", they say, pointing to their success with Knoll International, a furniture making group.

This is where the lack of "synergy" comes in. Nobody had ever heard of Cogan and Swid before they announced the acquisition of a 14 per cent stake in Sotheby's last December. They are nice guys from middle America who take their jackets off and roll up their sleeves.

If only they were famous, and better connected, Sotheby's might be able to welcome them as collaborators in building the business. They would then have some "synergy" with the millionaire collectors, jet setters and ruined aristocrats selling off their heirlooms who constitute the clientele.

The language spoken by Cogan and Swid, American business jargon, cannot convey the concerns and approach of Sotheby's directors. Equally, the phraseology of Old Etonian aesthetic commercialism is not translatable into Cogan and Swid.

The two sides have clearly failed

to understand each other from the start - whether purposely or not is unclear - and have each latched on to minor matters as a source of bitter resentment. The first meeting between the two sides took place in December. Sotheby's were represented by Gordon Brunton, the non-executive chairman whose real job is running International Thompson, Graham Llewellyn, Sotheby's chief executive and former head of the London jewel department, John Marion, chairman of Sotheby's American board, and Jesse Wolff, deputy chairman and lawyer in New York.

Sotheby's are particularly angry over a press statement issued by Cogan and Swid. This, Sotheby's bitterly aver, has caused the firm to lose consignments.

In contrast, Cogan and Swid bitterly complain of Sotheby's imposing a total ban in all countries where they operate on anyone concerned with the firm speaking to them. "Sotheby's experts do not accept items for sale without looking at them personally and making an assessment", Cogan and Swid complain. "None of the experts have been allowed to look at us."

Last Sunday Cogan and Swid met Sotheby's main board and sought to explain what a good deal they were offering Sotheby's staff, with special consideration for experts and profit-sharing incentives. They then asked for a private meeting with departmental experts.

As "working experts" they singled out Julian Thompson, John Marion, chairman of the American board, and Peter Wilson, chairman of Sotheby's from 1958 to 1980, the author and architect of its international success. Wilson now lives in the south of France and "helps to find business" from semi-retirement.

The Americans thus pointedly left out Graham Llewellyn, a long-standing expert and executive. The Three "chosen" men successfully urged the addition of Jim Lally, the American expert on Chinese art, to the group.

One gets the impression from Cogan and Swid that this group were painfully aggressive and frank. But Wilson, "behaved like a true gentleman", say Cogan and Swid.

Those of us who have watched with awe the ruthless genius for fixing deals - displayed - by Peter Wilson over his 20-year run as chairman, and have fallen delighted victims to his charm, are entitled to ask "What's up?"

### Bernard Levin: the way we live now

## Urgent - put a cross for cockney Kate

union's biggest branch, in the Newcastle Central Office of the Department of Health and Social Security, of 6,000 members, there were only 40 left at the meeting when it finally got to the nominations for the union's national executive.

"The extremist Broad Left", says Mrs Losinska, "rely on our members' apathy to elect them to default", and that is precisely what happened at the last "general election" in the union, when the Broad Left gained control of the NEC by a majority of 24-4; the majority includes three members of the Communist Party and eight supporters of Militant, including the union's present president, Mr Kevin Roddy. (Mr Roddy, who is standing for president again, opposing Kate Losinska herself, does not seek to disguise his political affiliations, saying in his election address that "I have always proudly and openly declared where I stand". This could hardly be said by another member of the Broad Left slate, Mr Ray Alderson, who is standing for one of the two vice-president posts; in 64 lines of his appeal for election he cannot spare half a dozen words to mention that he is a member of the Communist Party. Nor does the Broad Left's main election leaflet do so - indeed, it carefully avoids mentioning any of the political allegiances of the candidates.)

The CPSA has always been, in the vital narrow sense, non-political; though many of its campaigns have obviously and inevitably been political in character, it has never, as

a body, supported any particular party. The Broad Left wants affiliation to the Labour Party, which cannot be enacted under the union's present rules; they have therefore proposed that the annual conference (which they can control much more easily than the elections) should change the rules to permit such affiliation; they have already passed a resolution for affiliation to the CPSA support the NEC and Labour; whether even all of these, never mind the others, want the union, for the first time in its history, to be affiliated to such bodies, is another matter.

Anyway, before that interesting question is answered there is a more urgent one. The CPSA elections are now in progress, and some indication of the apathy of the majority can be gained from the fact that only one third of the union's 1,100 branches have so far indicated even that they are definitely going to hold ballot-meetings. In the belief that the majority of the members want leaders who will continue to strive for better pay, conditions and union electoral procedures while rejecting political extremism, and the hope that they can be induced to go to their branch meetings and vote for such leaders, I now print the list put forward by the National Moderate Group in the Civil and Public Services Association. (The numbers before the names on the list for National Executive Committee are those that will be found on the ballot papers).

For President (one vote): Losinska, Mrs K. M. For Vice-President

(two votes): Chambers, Mrs M.; Pemberton, F. For National Executive Committee (twenty-six votes):

2. Scott-Anderson, 50. Mylward, son, Mrs S.  
12. Billoun, J. 51. Newall, A.  
16. Bruce, J. 54. Parry, Mrs S.  
17. Butcher, J. 56. Pemberton, B.  
18. Butterworth, F.  
21. Carr, A.  
23. Chambers, 58. Price, Mrs J.  
Mrs M.  
28. Elliott, C. H. 66. Richards, K.  
35. Hepple, Mrs A.  
69. Thomas, P.  
36. Hickman, 71. Wilde, Mrs J.  
Miss M.  
40. James, Mrs J. P.  
Mrs M.  
43. Losinska, Mrs F.  
Mrs K. M.  
49. Milnes, D. K. D.

Would members who wish to vote for the moderate slate please note that they should vote for Mrs Losinska for president and Mrs Chambers and Mr Pemberton for vice-president, but also for all three for the national executive, as a candidate defeated for senior office can still be elected onto the NEC.

Spitting into the wind is a thankless task; the best that can be hoped for from the exercise is an eye of spit. Nevertheless, spit I must. To cast a vote in an important election which is part of our democratic process does not seem to me to rank with the Labour vote in the 1979 election. If the voter cannot do it sitting at home with his feet up but must go to a hall and be bored insensate for a couple of hours before he gets a chance to mark his card. Whether the members of the CPSA can be induced - by the hard work of Mrs Losinska and her allies or by my exhortation - to exercise their democratic right in their union's election I do not know. What I do know is that if enough of us fail to vote in enough elections we shall one day find that we no longer have any elections to vote in, and if the CPSA moderates, and my advocacy of their cause, are not sufficient to persuade the majority to turn out and vote, perhaps that thought may be.

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David Watt

## Putting Carter in perspective

"Come back Jimmy Carter. All - or at any rate nearly all - is forgiven." The fact that it has taken the chancelleries of Europe more than two years to set up this cry, in spite of the utter misery and dejection with which they contemplate the attitudes and accomplishments of Mr Reagan, may be considered some kind of measure of their disenchantment with the Carter regime at the end of its term. Nevertheless I have noticed a distinct softening of attitudes to the Carter record in recent months, and now along comes Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, to give another boost to the rehabilitation with his own account of what happened to American foreign policy between 1976 and 1980.

It is an unusually fair and honest book, one of the best of its kind to be published in recent years, and it makes a good case for Carter. The prize exhibits are naturally the Camp David agreements, the Panama Canal treaties, the final normalisation of relations with China and the SALT II treaty which, though never ratified, has at least been observed by both sides.

Brzezinski also claims credit for some developments which will be less universally acclaimed but which can at least be said to meet the Reaganite charge that Carter was "soft on Communism" - economic sanctions against the Soviet Union after Afghanistan, the rejection of the American military presence into the Persian Gulf, the formation of the rapid deployment force and the reinvigoration of NATO.

For liberals he has not so much to show, but he offers Carter's real attempt to get to terms with the Third World and the double-edged claim that after the cynical politics of the Nixon/Kissinger era, Carter reidentified the US with certain basic ideals: justice, equity, majority rule, self-determination and the dignity of the individual.

The personal portrait Brzezinski draws of Carter is also appealing. Inexperienced, certainly, with a streak of naivety. Also a poor public speaker and a mediocre manager, both in terms of American politics and of his own team. But highly intelligent, brave, loyal, a very able negotiator and genuinely high-principled.

What went wrong? Brzezinski doesn't really give us a specific reply - except of course "bad luck" which brought on the Iranian disaster and the hostages debacle in the last year of the President's term. Reading between the lines of his book, though, it is possible to put together some reasonable answers.

In the first place there was "bad luck" of a more fundamental kind than the fall of the Shah. Carter inherited an American public opinion that was "on the turn" between liberalism and conservatism, between optimism and pessimism, between excessive belief in détente with the Soviet Union and equally excessive rejection of it. After Watergate, the American people wanted idealism, which is why they elected Carter rather than Ford. But after Vietnam national pride was badly bruised and so idealism was required with a more brazen and nationalistic face than would have been necessary in the 1960s.

Carter's style - technocratic and casually, almost diffidently, earnest - was quite unable to mould itself to these contours. His idealism was too

"Power and Principle, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

easily caricatured as gullibility and his informality as weakness. But it was not only a matter of style and public relations. It was Carter's misfortune to find himself in an international situation that could hardly have been more unfavourable to his purposes. His instincts were constantly at war with the needs of world politics and often of domestic politics also.

Take human rights, for instance - one of the main planks of his platform. He rapidly found that in promoting this concept he not only wrecked his relations with the Russians, thus undermining the SALT process, but also upset a number of the Third World countries he was hoping to influence.

He was never able to evolve a satisfactory solution to the central problem of the Soviet Union. Should he regard Soviet behaviour in Africa or Central America as a bar to progress on disarmament? Should he play the "China card" and risk a worsening of East-West relations?

He vacillated, and indeed institutionalized this confusion in his foreign policy appointments. His heart, represented by his Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, said "Push ahead with détente"; his head, represented by Brzezinski, said "Détente is all very well, but you must link Soviet behaviour in general with specific negotiations; and even if you don't have the American public Congress will."

It is impossible to read all this without a feeling of deep depression for it confirms all the worst fears about the inability of the American system to cope with the problems of world leadership. The weakness of the American cabinet in relation to the presidency, the power of Congress, the multiplicity and force of special interest groups, such as the Zionist lobby, the volatility and ignorance of much of middle America over foreign policy issues - all this puts burdens on the President which require super-human powers to bear.

Yet the electoral system and the power of the media ensure that presidential candidates under modern conditions are not necessarily chosen for their potential skill in managing the incredible complexities of the international world, far less imposing a coherent pattern on American foreign policy. Carter aspired to be a cross between Kennedy and Kennedy, but he had neither Nixon's knowledge nor Kennedy's charisma.

Brzezinski himself believes that the only way to restore consistency and moderation is (a) to reorganize the institutions so that the National Security Adviser has a definite coordinating role in foreign policy on the same lines as the Director of the Budget and (b) to revive the post-war notion of a bi-partisan American foreign policy. But the first of these could have no more than marginal effects and the second, though infinitely desirable, would entail the abandonment of the right-wing ideology that is President Reagan's dominant political asset.

The answer must be good, moderate leadership. But where is it to come from? Brzezinski remarked in conversation recently that had Carter been prepared to bomb Tehran, even at the sacrifice of the lives of the American hostages, he might have won the election. He is probably right. And Carter was certainly right to refrain. But the price extracted by the electorate for his restraint will not exactly encourage others to follow his example. It is a bleak prospect.

Philip Howard

## Pardon, Noah, your ship is slowing

I'll say this for *Reader's Digest*: it pays its backs well. An article for the Digest will keep the penurious freelance scribbler in brown bread and carbon paper for longer than one for most other publications. Even when it reprints some *bon mot* or other extract as one of those whimsical little footnotes at the bottom of the page, it pays both author and original publisher handsomely.

That apart, predigesting and shortening books for those who cannot be bothered to read a whole book has always seemed to me a philistine thing to do. This may be an intolerably elitist view; but a book is a book; some books are the finest products of the best minds of their generations; there are enough of such books to keep one reading; and one should pay a book and its author the respect of reading it whole rather than a subbed-down version.

Undeterred by elitist disapproval, *Reader's Digest* is going ahead with the big one. This autumn it is bringing us an improved and abridged version of the Bible. In the beginning was the Word. But the Word was too damned long and too difficult, and busy people with important things to do could not be expected to plough through all those *longueurs* about who begat whom, and Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were, if you remember, the only two who ever got through to the Land of Milk and Honey.

The editors of *Reader's Digest* have managed to slim down the Old Testament by half, and the New Testament by a quarter, so that, according to the puff, "now you can read the Bible cover to cover," like a thriller rather than a Testament.

Jesus's own words have been reduced by about 10 per cent to eliminate repetitions; and when God becomes a bit prolix and boring in the Old Testament, the editors have just cut him off. Pope Gregory the Great said that the Bible is a stream wherein the elephant may swim and the lamb may wade. *Reader's Digest*

has dammed it and turned it into a paddling-pool where donkeys may take a dip.

After all those animal metaphors, here is an example of the condensation from God's instructions to Noah about how to preserve the animals from the flood. In King James's version, he says: "Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. . . And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them."

This is the Digest's version: "You are to make an ark of gopher wood and cover it with pitch. Make it four hundred and fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. . . Also take with you every sort of food, and store it up for you and them." It may not have the antique grandeur of King James's, which was drummed into the memories and the intellectual background of all children at school and on Sundays until recently. But it is certainly clearer and shorter.

I just hope they are not doing. Authors are notoriously touchy about having their pieces cut, as we see every day in the word-factory.

Who was it who said that it seemed odd, not so much that when God decided to write a book, he should write it in Greek; but that he should write the New Testament in such bad Greek? The Great Editor in the Sky left a stern warning to would-be sub-editors in *The Revelation of St John the Divine* 22.18: "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him his plagues, and he shall be cut away from the words of the book of this prophecy. God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the city which are written in this book."





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## TOWARDS STABILITY

Yesterday's cuts in the major banks' base interest rates were hardly dramatic. The fall was only half a point and had been predicted for some time. But they are particularly welcome because they mark the end of an unpleasant phase of uncertainty for Britain in the financial markets.

Lower oil prices were bound to lead to a relative fall in sterling, because they are more beneficial to the other major oil-importing industrial countries. Currency dealers took this as a signal for a large-scale assault on sterling, taking it well below a sensible level. At the same time, the future of the United States monetary policy was deeply unclear, as the Federal Reserve Board agonized over whether it should raise interest rates in response to poor money supply figures. For the moment at least, these uncertainties have disappeared. The price of oil has stabilized. Sterling has stabilized and the Federal Reserve Board has decided not to act.

Lord Richardson, retiring governor of the Bank of England, and his American opposite number Mr Paul Volcker have both made it clear that they want to see interest rates much lower worldwide to encourage economic recovery and to help resolve the debt problems of newer industrial nations. But the wish is not enough. At home, both the City and the authorities are taking a cautious line. They expect base rates to fall only one further point in the rest of the year. That is one reason why the Bank of England delayed the latest fall until yesterday. It did not want interest rates to fall too fast for fear that they might rise later with damaging effects on confidence. Too steep a fall could upset the pound and jeopardize the Government's monetary targets. The first two months' money figures for the current year, added to the likelihood that this year's budget

deficit may be higher than intended, do not yet leave much room for manoeuvre.

There is some historical evidence that interest rates reflect past inflation for long periods rather than any deeply perceptive forecasts for the future. The troubles of the international banking system, the running down of oil states' bank balances and the more cautious attitude of bankers, likewise all suggest that interest rates may stay too high for the good of the world economy as inflation falls.

The see-sawing currency markets also exert a malevolent influence. Although bank-fuelled speculation, which shifted from the European currencies to the pound has temporarily abated, it would be foolish to think that speculators will not soon settle on a new target. Raising interest rates remains the most effective short-term way for a government to defend its currency.

This can only change if governments consciously aim at greater stability as a goal in its own right, vital to trade and to business decisions. It was perhaps inevitable that the determined efforts of Britain, the United States and other countries to beat inflation and restore sound money would be bought at the expense of wildly fluctuating exchange rates and interest rates, with the two acting on each other.

Now that so much progress has been made on inflation, governments can pay more attention to these other variables, which are just as vital to the economy. The House of Commons Treasury Committee is a little disinclined to complain that the Government has no interest rate or exchange rate policy. It is impossible to target money, interest rates and the exchange rate at the same time. In the past four years,

having exchange and interest rate targets would have implied abandoning a monetary policy. But there is some sense in the committee's charge. It is possible to aim at the most stable combination of the three, at the cost of some compromise on the purity of any one policy target. As the committee pointed out, wild swings in the value of the currency have more effect on the economy than the odd billion on or off the budget.

Greater stability in financial markets now offers better hopes for big cuts in interest rates than sound money on its own. The Bank of England has already moved in this direction, although it wisely did not try to prop up the pound against the flood of events.

The Williamsburg summit next month is now concentrating people's minds internationally on ways they can cooperate more effectively. Lord Richardson has said more clearly than ever that exchange rate stability should be an important world policy objective. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, and Dr Henry Kissinger have now proposed interesting and realistic schemes. Japan's prime minister Mr Nakasone has lent his weight.

The summit itself may disappoint such hopes. But it could none the less achieve a great deal if the six smaller nations can persuade the United States to make a moral commitment not to raise interest rates from present levels. That would be the greatest single contribution to currency stability and lower world interest rates. It would also force the United States to take a more responsible attitude to its own budget in the interests of world recovery. For there can be no hope of lasting currency stability and cheap money unless all the major governments take great care to keep their own house in order and do not let any of the vital economic variables get out of control.

## UNIFORM OPPORTUNITIES

A generation has passed since the cold winter of 1960 when the last conscript was inducted into the Army. For today's adolescents, National Service is a folk memory, barely remembered even by their parents. Khaki has been replaced by drab greens and the functional outfits of modern fighting men; the nation has relapsed into the ways of its history, holding the armed forces in regard, to be sure, but as a thing apart, a caste. Few homes now have direct contact with the forces by blood: our sympathies and common feelings are relayed and sometimes trivialized by radio, television and newspaper reports. So must it be with the professionalization of the military. Yet the new youth training scheme may be a small antidote now that it has been extended to the armed forces.

In small measure the annual flow of volunteers on twelve-month training placements might replace ignorance and synthetic knowledge with direct perception of the strengths and weaknesses of a peace-time fighting machine. The individual training with the forces, young men and women, will surely benefit in a personal sense; but beyond that they may feed into wider society an appreciation of the work of the armed forces at a level deeper than the celebratory, even adulatory, attitude produced by victory in the Falklands War.

The involvement of the Army,

Navy and Air Force in providing training and work experience for the young unemployed is practical common sense. It is fitting that the announcement of the scheme fell to Mr Michael Heseltine, whose approval of a £1 million subsidy from his own department's funds is a generous gesture. Those close to the minister will remember that among his most enduring impressions from Merseyside in the weeks after Toxteth was not the physical devastation but the pointlessness and emptiness - pointed out to his wife in crude language on more than one occasion - of some of the Manpower Services Commission's schemes for the young jobless. Their limitations are not wholly the fault of the MSC which depends on employers for work experience. It has taken the country's biggest employer - the Government - far too long to realize that within the canyons of the bureaucracy, in the dockyards and in the museums there are many opportunities for practical experience.

The services offer some of the best opportunities. Within the armed forces there exists a magnificent machine for training raw youth. Without undue deviation from its essential purposes that machine can find room for driving instruction, electronics work, maintenance skills - as well as weapons training. The National Service generation is sometimes overfond of emphasizing the "charac-

ter-building" aspects of its experience which at the time appeared to be exactly the opposite. But the forces have changed. Modern armies fight psych-war within as well as without and Mr Heseltine's provision for a 14-day period of "notice" seems sensible and fair. There are at present some seven applicants for each Army vacancy; the 5,200 places on the new scheme are likely to be oversubscribed.

Politicians' talk of the scheme's anticipated compulsory enlistment of the young unemployed is nonsense. Other objects - within the military - should pause, too. There will of course be hesitation over budgets raided and the loss of elasticity that might occur when seasoned trainers are redeployed on the difficult task of knocking inner-city adolescents into shape in a short space of time. But in the medium run there is a bonus.

Britain's reserves are limited. Without conscription the forces' back-up is considerably less than in other Nato countries. Young men and women with twelve months military training and discipline under their belts will not immediately convert into soldiers or sailors in some future emergency, but they would provide a cadre of half-trained manpower. If during their stints they have acquired a habit of self-reliance and a willingness to respond to a national call to arms then they could form the basis of a reserve force in depth.

## Donnish dalliance

From Mr C. R. K. Perkins  
Sir, I find it strange that Richard Holmes, commenting (feature, April 2) on John Donne's Good Friday poem, should say: "It is difficult to imagine him stopping his horse to study the primroses in the Welsh woodlands."

He must know that at Montgomery Castle, his destination in April, 1613, Donne did, in fact, write another poem based on his close observation of a field of primroses, "where their form, and their infinity, make a terrestrial galaxy".

True, he characteristically takes the flower in its various forms as representative of woman and not as an emblem of springtime renewal; but to suggest that he was by nature indifferent to nature is less than fair. Yours faithfully, C. R. K. PERKINS, 47 Moorpark Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, April 7.

## Desirable residence

From Sir Donald Tebbitt  
Sir, It is disappointing that your unnamed Foreign Staff's article on diplomatic housing ("The Empire strikes back for the good life", April 6) should have been tailored for the gallery in the usual superficial way. The choice is not a simple one

between selling diplomatic palaces and making huge savings on the one hand, and maintaining personal luxury at high cost on the other. Many prestigious British diplomatic residences were acquired cheaply, either through timely purchase or through good will and generosity, sometimes outright gift, on the part of overseas governments. It is quite unrealistic to suppose that properties which were given to Britain, or put into British hands on favoured terms, would be permitted to be flogged for a fortune on the open market. In many cases they could in practice only be disposed of by returning them to local governments.

The British taxpayer would then have to cough up large sums to build inferior substitutes in the outer suburbs. The loss would not be in face and diplomatic effectiveness alone but in hard cash.

Your diplomatic staff's idea of the constraints of what they call "the good life" is equally strange. Most diplomats join the career because of the interest of the work itself and in the hope of rendering patriotic service. Those who think it a luxury for a diplomat and his wife to run a small four-star hotel in their spare time without the incentive of the profit motive should try it for themselves. Yours sincerely, DONALD TEBBITT, 35 Buckingham Gate, SW1, April 7.

## Nostell Priory painting

From Mr Eric Lyall  
Sir, Some of your readers may have assumed that Mr Barlow's letter (April 9) was intended for publication on April 1. Bearing in mind the possibility that this is not so some answer may be desirable.

Rebus-makers cheerfully made (and make) far worse puns than those suggested by Mr Leslau (Spectrum, March 25).

Jonché - stream flowers, etc - would, to a rebus-maker, be sufficiently near to *jean caché*. *Faire tapissier* has come to mean "to be a wall-flower" though it has retained its earlier meaning of "to line the walls". *Tapissier* also can mean a carpet.

*Crédence* or *credence* in English means belief. The French have gallantly attempted to maintain their language, but there have been developments over the centuries. Perhaps we should add an expert in medieval French to the historian and botanist.

Meanwhile the other meaning of *porter à faux*, "to be inconclusive", may be the most appropriate comment. Yours faithfully, ERIC LYALL, Riders Grove, Old Hall Green, Nr Ware, Hertfordshire, April 9.

## Labour's policy for pensioners

From Mr Brynmor John, MP for Pontypriod (Labour) and Mr Peter Shore, MP for Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar (Labour)  
Sir, Your Political Correspondent, Anthony Bevin, simply got it wrong when he wrote last Wednesday (feature, April 6) about Labour's policy for pensioners. He has mixed up two separate matters.

The costing of £2bn for "benefits and pension increases" given in Labour's pre-Budget Economic Statement relates to the full-year costs of measures we considered of priority in year one, had we been in power at the time of last month's Budget.

Labour's 12-point plan for pensioners is a phased programme and the costings given were for the first full year but were the full-year cost of the plan when wholly implemented.

Yours faithfully, BRYNMOR JOHN, PETER SHORE, House of Commons, April 12.

## Post-coital pill

From Mr Gerald Wright, QC

Sir, Mr Ian Kennedy asserts (April 11) that the law on abortion concerns itself with pregnancy and procuring a miscarriage. This is not so. It is quite true that the Offences against the Person Act 1861 strikes at acts done "without intent to procure, the miscarriage of any woman"; but the underlying policy of our law, both in that Act and in the common law from time immemorial, is the protection of human life.

Would anyone wish it to be otherwise? Legal authors of the past dealt with abortion at common law in terms of the medical knowledge of their day. Thus Bracton deemed abortion to be homicide and said that such homicide was committed when the foetus was *animatum* (alive). Later authors, eg Coke, reduced the crime committed from homicide to "a great misprison" and said that it was committed when a woman was "quick with child". Quick, of course, means alive.

We know that quickening is a physical sensation experienced by a mother when, for the first time, she feels life within her. In fact she has had life within her since the moment of conception, for it is an indispensable biological fact that human life begins at fertilization.

The post-coital pill destroys the life that the woman carries within her. I agree with Dr Fimms (April 5) that in doing so it causes her to miscarry within the meaning of the Offences against the Person Act 1861. However, even were this not so, it is still an offence at common law to destroy that which Bracton described as *animatum* and Coke as "quick".

We now know that the fertilized ovum is both *animatum* and "quick" because it has human life, and I would therefore suggest that, statute apart, the common law of England protects the living but unimplanted conceptus and renders the use of the post-coital pill criminal. Yours faithfully, GERALD WRIGHT, Melbourne Buildings, 21 North John Street, Liverpool, April 11.

## From Mr Margaret White

Sir, In over 20 years on the Bench I have come to expect lawyers to use words like Humpty Dumpty, to suit their own purposes. Ian Kennedy (April 11) is the first lawyer in my experience to use emphasis in this way. He writes: "We only speak of an ectopic pregnancy if the egg has implanted somewhere."

We don't speak of an ectopic pregnancy but an *ectopic* pregnancy, meaning that in this case the pregnancy is extra-uterine. On the question of test-tube babies he asks: "whose pregnancy would the test-tube baby be?" If there is no human life before implantation why does he use the expression test-tube baby? Likewise, what do infertile women receive when they pay for *in-vitro* fertilization?

Nothing is added to the embryo in the womb except nourishment. If life is not present before the fertilized egg is injected into the womb it certainly won't be there afterwards.

Yours sincerely, MARGARET WHITE, 196 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey, April 11.

## Christians and Jews

From Mr Noel Hughes

Sir, In his perceptive comment on your leader, "Jesus was a Jew" (April 2) Professor Moule pointed out (April 7) that it was under the swastika, rather than the Cross, that the Jews suffered their holocaust. Perhaps he might agree that, today, it is the hammer and sickle rather than the Cross that bears most hard.

May I take up a point that Professor Moule passed by? "The record of organized Christendom", you argued, "entitles no Christian to presume that his church is any more complete in its spirituality than the rabbinical approach theoretically left behind, in the wrong, twenty centuries ago". The years of diaspora have brought the Jews much persecution, but also a freedom from the responsibility for the exercise of political power. Will Israel prove true to Judaism as "organized Christendom" has been to the teaching of Christ?

There is a glaring paradox in Israel today that prompts the question. Nowhere in the world is greater effort made than in Israel to

## Politics and voluntary bodies

From the Chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, The Dr Vaughan "affair" has potentially raised a number of crucial questions about the relations between Government and independent bodies in receipt of Exchequer financial support and about the proper balance between independence and accountability.

For many years voluntary organisations have received grants from public funds. Such funding has increased very considerably over the past decade; and today many of our social and other welfare services depend on the contributions of voluntary organisations working in partnership with local authorities and central government.

While those who work with the elderly or handicapped, with children in trouble or ex-offenders, with the mentally ill or chronically sick and those assisting the poor or unemployed or seeking to improve our environment have a primary interest in providing services, they may also seek to improve conditions or address the causes of problems. This may well lead voluntary organisations and others to advocate changes in the policies and practices of a local authority or of a government department in the interests of those they seek to serve.

Successful ministers and civil servants have benefited from the advice given by voluntary organisations. It would be a sad loss to the evolution of social policy and to the processes of government if voluntary organisations in receipt of public funds were forbidden from expressing their views on policy and administration as it affects their proper aims.

Political subversion by government paymasters would be as dangerous and improper in this context as in the other areas of our free society where the principle of the "arm's length" grant (support without control of policy, though subject to scrutiny of propriety and efficiency) has also long been recognized, eg the arts, university teaching and research, the BBC, the judiciary, royalty and certain international bodies and causes. There is already adequate protection in the existing charities law against "political" abuse by the recipients; but it is for the Charity Commissioners by due process to enforce, not for ministers by administrative whimsy.

There remains lamentable confusion about what is and what is not "political" activity. Case law suggests that some aims are classified as political whereas others are not, even though both seek to influence public policy, legislation, etc; and this breeds suspicion that the judgment between them is itself "political", with a bias against those who would change rather than conserve the status quo.

It would be more in accordance with the principle that law should be clear, ascertainable and predictable if a simpler, more objective test were

## Housing Bill

From the Chairman of the Consumers Association

Sir, The Housing and Building Control Bill, which is now on its way through Parliament, creates a right which enables the Secretary of State to pass on, to bodies which are not answerable to Parliament, his statutory power to give practical guidance on the general safety requirements of the building regulations.

The bodies which could be given the power under the Bill to approve the guidance documents are likely to be private organisations and may in their turn approve a document issued by a third organisation. In addition, if a particular document proved in use to be unacceptable there is no procedure in the Bill for forcing its withdrawal.

Furthermore, the Bill gives the documents containing the guidance legal status. In a prosecution for a breach of the regulations, or in an action for negligence, a failure to have complied with a document will tend to establish liability, while compliance will tend to negative liability.

It is true that British Standards, for example, have been used to indicate ways in which a builder or producer may comply with the building regulations, but final approval of the use of the standard for this purpose has remained with the Secretary of State and the relevant standards have been incorporated in a formal statutory instrument.

In addition, there have been consultations with all interested parties including consumer representatives. Maybe the new-style "approved documents" do not need to be laid before Parliament, but they ought to gain their status by being directly approved by the Secretary of State who is responsible

adopted, namely - that politics is essentially about the retention and transference of government power and that, in a democratic society and in the present context, "political" activity consisted only of activity whose aims include, overtly or covertly, the influencing of the electoral process in favour of (or against) any person or party.

Contributing to debates on public policy and administration would not, as such, constitute "political" activity in this context. If it did, every body that ever sought to influence government and Parliament, including many highly respected and worthy charities, would be caught.

If they are excluded, then the line can only be drawn either "subjectively" according to how controversial the influence is or "objectively" in relation to the electoral process itself. Objectivity is better.

I believe that the recognition of these principles would both uphold the proper freedom and independence of voluntary bodies (and others receiving "arm's length" government support), satisfy Parliament as to the proper and efficient use of the taxpayers' money, reinforce desirable partnership between central and local government and voluntary bodies and correct the present unsatisfactory confusion - and resulting suspicion - over the definition of "political" activity.

Our free and plural society would be healthier for thus dissipating the shadow of "Big Brother", while leaving the electoral process as the proper domain of the parties and the politicians.

Yours etc, PETER JAY, Chairman, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, WCI, April 14.

## From Mrs Margaret P. Kerry

Sir, I was very pleased to read your report of, and leader on (April 12) the attack on citizens' advice bureaux by Dr Gerald Vaughan.

As one of many volunteer workers, I am training to be of use in a local CAB. I have been impressed by the thoroughness of the training, the devotion of the mainly unpaid workers and the high principles behind the organization.

Even more impressive has been the gratitude expressed to me by clients who have come to rely on the bureau for confidential and impartial help.

It is obvious from our day book that our clients are from many walks of life and their problems are as diverse as their backgrounds. One is proud to be part of this most helpful, and, in our increasingly bureaucratic system, essential organization.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET P. KERRY, 318 Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

to Parliament. He should assure himself that there has been adequate consultation with all interested parties.

If the Bill is not amended, the power of the Secretary of State's representatives - his officials - to influence decisions will be reduced and the way will be open for special, including private, interests to define criteria of public interest behind closed doors.

Of course, the British Standards Institution has its own procedures for public consultation, but other bodies may not have such a procedure. When the consultation is finished, a decision has to be taken on the public interest, particularly when there is disagreement on acceptable levels of safety. The decision should be taken by the Secretary of State.

We do not believe that the constitutional implications have been widely understood and discussed and the precedent the Bill could establish could have serious implications for safety legislation.

Yours faithfully, RACHEL WATERHOUSE, Chairman, Consumers' Association, 14 Buckingham Street, WC2.

## Buying British

From Major E. D. Stroud

Sir, Dishwashers, too, it seems are no longer made in Britain. Wishing to replace our aged Colston, my wife wrote to the Electricity Council enquiring about a British-made model. The Electricity Council replied: "We do not know of any dishwashers that are British made" and recommended a foreign model. Yours faithfully, E. D. STROUD, Lantern Cottage, 35 Upper Street, West Harnham, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

the drama of his life on earth as Jesus. He did not forget the prophets through whose mouth he spoke; those who would have killed him as a new-born baby; those who would listen to him entranced and obey him but soon afterwards would call for his blood; the man who betrayed him; the man who executed him.

God chose a particular time, place and circumstances yet was not their product in the person of Jesus Christ. This is the reason why - contrary to your leading article - Jesus could not be considered as "the massive gift with which Jewry has endowed the Christian world".

As far as antisemitism is concerned, sufficient grounds for rejecting it lie in the rejection of any sort of ignorance which disregards Jesus's command to love one's neighbour. Negative feelings towards certain actions of the state of Israel do not represent antisemitism but anti-Isrealism, a parallel to which can be found in anti-Americanism.

Yours faithfully, IVAN JELINEK, 6 Gordon Avenue, East Sheen, SW14.

## Health service distortions

From Professor John A. Davis and others

Sir, There has been much rejoicing in the press over the Government's decision to keep open the Tadworth branch of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children with the help of charitable monies. We acknowledge the very high standards of care provided there for a relatively small number of chronically ill children, but we question whether this is really the way to run a health service, bearing in mind the Government's expressed wish to delegate decision-making from the centre to the periphery.

Here in the Cambridge paediatric unit for various reasons we have both the highest bed occupancy and throughput in the country, even though these measures of workload are usually reciprocally related. Shortage of nursing staff, unsuitable accommodation and lack of necessary equipment make it difficult to keep a high-class service going. We are therefore surprised and envious that large sums of money can be found to head off a prudential decision on the part of the Governors of Great Ormond Street to cut their cost according to the cloth available.

This is by no means the only case of which we are aware where political considerations have led to the overruling by central authorities of sensible decisions by health authorities to make the best use of the resources made available. It makes nonsense of the Government's professed desire for devolution in the administration of the NHS.

Yours faithfully, JOHN A. DAVIS, N. R. C. ROBERTSON, N. D. BARNES, University of Cambridge Clinical School, Department of Paediatrics, Level 8, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge.

## Stamp of neglect

From Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative)

Sir, I read in your columns today (April 12) that the festival, "Britain salutes New York", is to be held on the anniversary of the treaty severing the Americans, against the wishes of very many of them, from the British Crown.

Likewise, our Post Office celebrated the bicentennial of the revolutionary republic with a special postal issue. It rejected my request for a special issue to honour the United Empire Loyalists who, 200 years ago, endured suffering and loss in moving to Canada or the Caribbean so as to stay beneath the British Crown and flag. It was my hope, and that of today's United Empire Loyalists, that a special stamp should be issued in Canada, too.

This putting of those who have been against us before those who have been for us is a piece with the dissuasion of Sir John A. Macdonald from naming the dominion the Kingdom of Canada - lest Washington be offended. We should show a little loyalty and gratitude and stop crawling.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON, House of Commons, April 12.

## Public records

From Mr Anthony J. Camp

Sir, The "entire answer" to Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker (April 11) is for Lord Teviot's Bill to be amended to enable the copies of the 100-year-old records, presently in the hands of the local superintendent registrars, to be passed to the county record offices.

It is an absurd omission: it would save the cost of purchasing microfilms and reduce by half the congestion in any central repository. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY J. CAMP, Director, Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, SW7, April 11.

## Elgin Marbles

From Mr B. F. Cook

Sir, With reference to the letter you published on April 8 from Dr Mainstone, your readers may care to know that the British Museum has for some time been discussing this very matter with the official Greek Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments. This followed their request for replicas to be made of several architectural members, including those mentioned, in connection with the restoration of the Erechtheion. Yours faithfully, B. F. COOK, Keeper, Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, The British Museum, WC1, April 11.

## Stumped on the crease

From Mr Clive Farley

Sir, Clare Colvin's criticism, in her review of *Charles's Aunt* (April 7), that "surely an old soldier like Colonel Sir Francis Chesney would not wear a pair of flannels without a sharply ironed crease" is unjustified.

For formal wear in 1892 trousers would have remained uncreased. Creases did not appear in trousers until the late nineties with the advent of trouser-presses, and only into common currency in the Edwardian era. Yours faithfully, CLIVE FARLEY, 19 Florence Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, April 8.







# WALES

**Demands for devolution no longer divide the nation. The overwhelming problem is unemployment and united efforts are being made to attract new industries and holiday visitors while retaining Welsh traditions.**

Politicians, praise be, are not infallible. If they were then the social order in Wales today would have disintegrated before an unrelenting wave of unemployment. Anarchy would stalk the land and despair be turned into rebellion. This was the scenario painted three years ago by a parliamentary select committee primed by warnings that by this time 140,000 people could be on the dole in the principality.

Sadly, that figure has been passed and now 17.3 per cent of 178,077 people are unemployed, but the Welsh have emerged stoically from the storm of savage de-industrialization to confound the pessimists.

From Shotton in the North to Port Talbot in the South, British Steel has shed jobs like leaves in an autumn storm and those communities have paid the price for relying too heavily in the past on one major employer.

It is a picture repeated in the South Wales valleys, where the reign of king coal has diminished until there are now only 33 pits remaining in the area. After July only one pit will remain in the Rhondda valley whose seams fuelled the warships of the Empire.

The story, unfortunately, is not confined to the old traditional industries which have now been slumped down in the face of the recession.

The towns of Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock in Dyfed are ringed by oil refineries but the hopes of unending prosperity on the back of black gold have been dashed against an unemployment rate of 30 per cent. And in Gwynedd, stronghold of the Welsh language and traditions, jobs have disappeared as the hugely impressive

Dinorwic hydro-electric power scheme nears completion.

But not all is doom in the Celtic kingdom, for the Welsh, geographically on the wrong edge of Europe, are fighting back. Government-funded agencies such as the Development Corporation for Wales and Mid Wales Development, known until recently as the Development Board for Rural Wales, have been working unrelentingly to attract and develop jobs in the country.

Last month in a stroke, worthy of the best of Madison Avenue, Mid Wales Development hijacked the legendary Orient Express and took it from King's Cross to the Harrogate Fashion Fair to convince the moguls of high fashion that the designers of the area have long since shed their "tawdry tapestry" image. Mythology dies hard but the populist image of a strike-happy workforce is no longer deserved. Even the miners, traditionally regarded as the backbone of Welsh working class militancy, could decide only by half of 1 per cent to strike over a threatened pit and that action petered out through lack of support from the other British coalfields.

Superficially, Wales appears to be just another integrated region of Britain and many a retired couple from England live out their lives in Colwyn Bay or Prestatyn without ever understanding the nature or the culture of their adopted land. They never see that away from the coastal caravan and candy floss plain, just a few miles into the hills, the rural Welsh live a different life shrouded in the secrecy of an old culture and language.

The language, spoken by some 300,000 people, is at its eleventh hour. It has withstood

repression, discriminatory acts of Parliament and vilification from within to persist against the odds. But the greatest challenge has come from the case with which Anglo-American pop culture is beamed into the home. Chapels have become bingo halls and the faithful of the Welsh non-conformist tradition are now mostly elderly.

Just when it appeared that the language was to be engulfed the Welsh speakers mounted a tremendous rearguard action and now the language enjoys a status that minorities in other countries, such as Bretons, can only envy.

While clinging stubbornly to cultural differences, politically the Welsh are firmly entrenched in the mainstream of British politics. Although urged to do so by everyone with the exception of the Conservative Party, the nation resoundingly rejected the opportunity of having its own devolved assembly. The result was a body blow to Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Nationalist Party, who manage

to return only two highly-able members to Parliament.

Partly to meet this challenge the nationalists decided to campaign from a socialist platform but its first test under this banner did not improve its fortunes when its candidate was badly beaten at the Gower by-election.

More recently its campaign urging people to withhold payment of water rates because they pay more than consumers in England has received broader support and the issue is now to be tested in the High Court.

But it appears likely that the party will continue to remain as no more than a peripheral threat to the big battalions who at the next election will be contesting 38 seats, two more than last time.

In spite of the furious ideological battles that have beset the party in England, the Labour Party in Wales continues to project a caring, almost old-fashioned image and at the next election it will be hoping that this solid front can

help it to regain the losses it suffered last time.

The Liberal-SDP Alliance, which came second in Gower, will point to the legacy left by successive local Labour administrations when it takes to the hustings.

For the once mighty industrial valleys, where huge personal fortunes were made out of iron and coal, have some of the worst housing in Britain. Within sight of these mean, sub-standard homes, the opulent palaces of the masters still stand as a monument to incredible insensitivity. According to some estimates 40 out of every 100 homes in the valleys are unfit to live in, making a total of 15.4 per cent of Welsh homes sub-standard, compared with a figure of 9.6 in England. But the little two-up, two-down houses are the legacy of every government. It is just cruel that in a more enlightened age the wealth which caused them to be built so hastily has dissipated in the face of the world recession.

There are problems too in education where a worrying 25 per cent of Welsh schoolchildren leave after 11 years of full time education without a single piece of paper to take to a prospective employer. Alarmingly, in some industrial areas of the south where the old miners' libraries no longer function, this figure climbs to above 30 per cent.

Superficially, these factors might deter potential industrialists, but those who have made their home in Wales are generally delighted by the willingness and adaptability of the workforce. And communications are generally much better than is supposed for most companies.

In the South most concerns are within easy reach of the M4 motorway, while in the North the A55 is being developed into a high density artery. Communications between North and South Wales remain unimpressive but then most traffic flows eastwards into England.

In the vast, pleasant and underpopulated tract of the central region, Mid Wales

Development has pioneered small factories providing 6,000 job opportunities and is continuing to attract industry in spite of a seemingly strange decision by the Government to abolish assisted area status for the greater part of its area. The agency backs up its work by an effective social development programme which has improved the quality of life in a host of ways ranging from assistance with the building of new community halls to the grant aid for improved television reception.

Inexorably entwined with its great neighbour, the Welsh steadfastly refuse to be completely assimilated. The Welsh are stereotyped by rugby and song, but find nothing amusing or derogatory in these associations. The love of both are deeply ingrained into the character. The similarities with their English friends abound, but under the surface the differences are as immovable as the mighty castles built to subdue them.

Tim Jones  
Welsh Correspondent

continued on next page

## ECONOMY

### Ready for the upturn

Wales, battered disproportionately by the economic gales which stripped the country of jobs after the boom years of the Sixties, is emerging bruised but fitter to take advantage of the industrial upturn forecast by the CBI.

The recession had a dramatic effect on the Principality, and in the steel towns of Shotton, Port Talbot and Newport the consequences were particularly shattering. More than most, those communities suffered from having their industrial eggs in one basket and as the steel plants shrank in capacity, jobs were lost in supply industries.

In the nine years to 1982, Wales lost 38,000 jobs in steel, and Mr Ian MacGregor, previously head of British Steel and now appointed chairman of the National Coal Board, recently told the Parliamentary Select Committee on Welsh Affairs that more redundancies could be on the way.

Abolitive industrial action, coupled with threats of mobilizing the trade union triple alliance of steel, coal and rail, failed to halt the cuts and left the bitter accusation that Wales had been treated more harshly than the rest of Britain.

Although the human cost has been high, with Wales now suffering from a coded unemployment rate of 180,000, the strategy seems to have been vindicated in strict business terms.

For since the cuts in jobs, particularly in the last few years, productivity at the steel plant has increased dramatically. Llanwern, for instance, has recently broken through the four man-hours per tonne barrier, bringing it to 3.8 hours, and the plant has been breaking output records.

There remains, however, the possibility that long-term prospects for steel sales are gloomy. Some claim that the present slight upturn is merely a temporary quirk caused by companies trying to beat price increases or building up stocks slightly after a long period of run-down.

Largely because of the political muscle of the miners, the coal industry has thus far escaped the kind of slimming operation to which steel has been subjected.

However, the failure, bitterly resented, of the other coalfields to back them over their abortive fight to save the Tynmawr-Lewis Merthyr colliery, coupled with

## INDUSTRY

### Aid package brings in new firms

The way Wales goes about attracting new industries is getting a big facelift. One change has been the formation of WINVEST - Wales Investment Location - to take over from the 25-year-old Development Corporation for Wales.

This new organization has a core of Development Corporation experts who have been in the forefront of bringing foreign companies to Wales, but it has more muscle. It has been given responsibility for the allocation of advance factories and the availability of selective government cash aid to industry.

Previously, factory allocations had to be referred to the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and financial assistance to the Welsh Office Industry Department.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, in announcing that WINVEST would start on April 1, said: "The aim is to provide a one-stop shop for the prospective overseas investor and a sharper focus for our inward investment effort."

Throughout the recession Wales has maintained a good track record in attracting new companies although the scale of job creation has been swamped by redundancies in older industries such as steel.

The successes continue. A Finnish company has recently announced it is building a pulp and newsprint mill on Decade, employing 270 people, and more than 1,000 jobs are expected to be created in back-up industries such as timber and haulage.

At Bridgend, in South Wales, the American-owned Align-Rite Corporation is the latest high-technology company to select Wales. It will be the first on a new industrial park being developed by Mid Glamorgan County Council, and will make photomasks - a product used in manufacturing microchips.

Mid Wales Development, the promotional name adopted by the Development Board for Rural Wales, attracts a steady stream of new businesses to its advance factories. Recently, these have included a computer company at Aberystwyth, an engineering company at Towyn and the expansion of a golf

continued on next page

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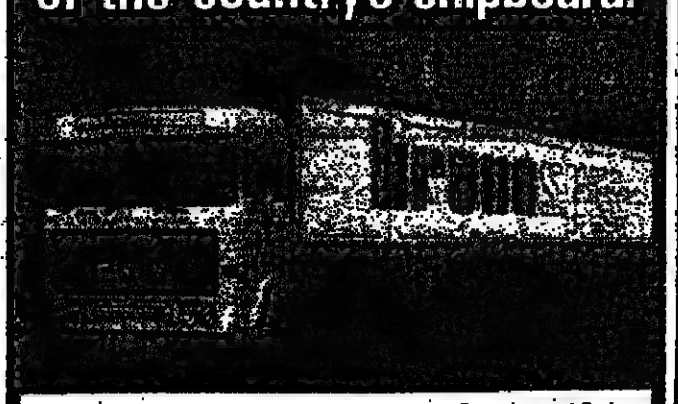
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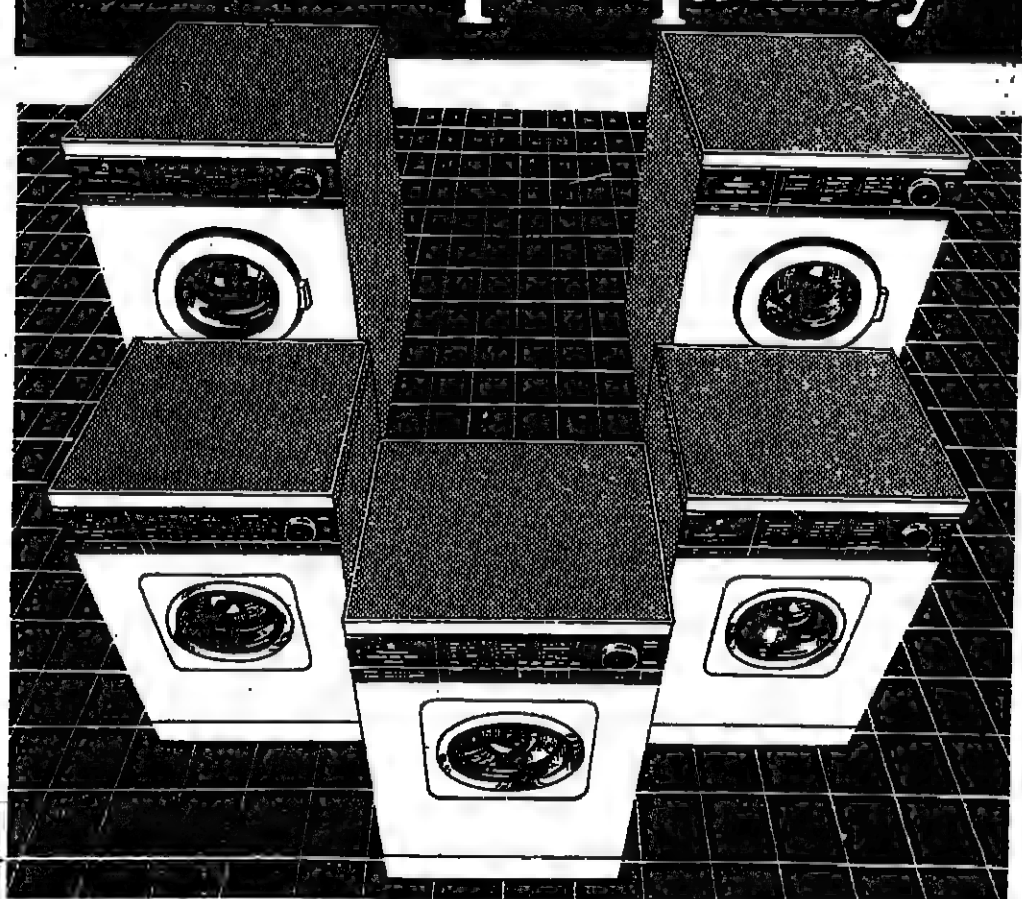
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**Rhymney Valley**  
Alan Bruce, Industrial Development Officer Rhymney Valley Council, Tel. 01443 812241.

### In a park... by the sea



**University College of Swansea Conference Centre**

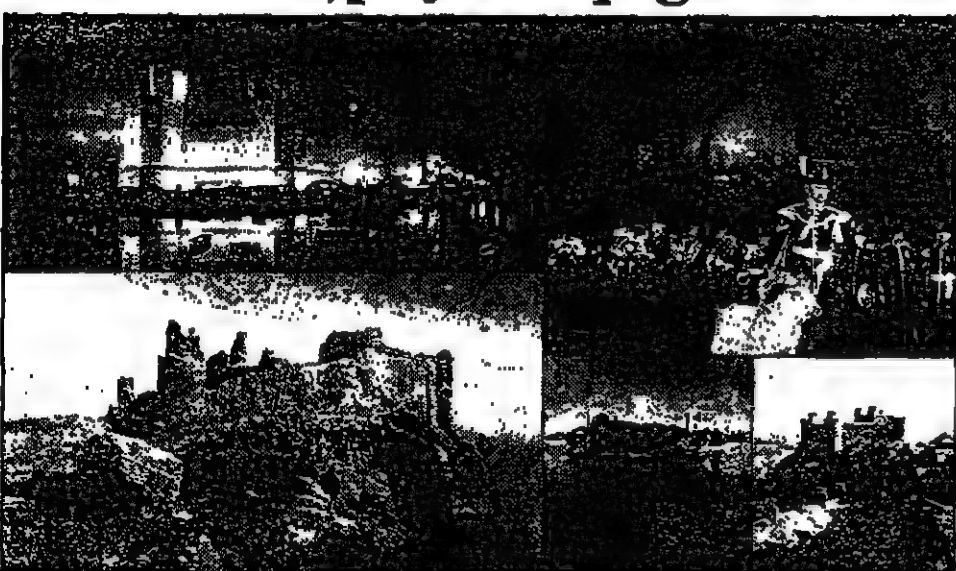
Swansea University College has one of the most beautiful situations of any British University. On its campus are halls of residence, ample lecture theatre facilities, a central building with dining rooms, refectory, snack bar, bank, post office, etc.

Swansea is on the edge of the picturesque Gower Peninsula with its magnificent coastal scenery, sandy beaches, and historic castles, so that it is a great place not only for conferences but also for holidays. Houses in the university's student village are let to holiday makers during the summer, and they can use the Sports Centre with its heated swimming pool and other facilities.

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For further details, write to the Accommodation Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park Swansea, SA2 8PP. Tel. (0792) 208929 (24 hours).

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### Rates standstill thanks to county

Industry in North Wales is congratulating Clwyd County Council for deciding not to increase its rates this year. In a statement, the Confederation of British Industry said that on behalf of Clwyd employers it was pleased to offer appreciation and thanks to a County authority.

Mr Lewis Davies, CBI Wales's North Wales chairman, said: "Credit should be given where it is due and I am delighted that

Clwyd councillors have had the guts to acknowledge that no council can immunise itself from the recession through rate increases.

"Their votes will directly assist local companies to be competitive, help safeguard jobs and set an example which I trust other counties will try to copy."

Mr Davies is site general manager of the Rayon manufacturers Courtaulds, in Holywell.

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS Wednesday March 2 1983

**Clwyd - a better business decision**

Talk to Wayne Morgan, County Industrial Officer, Clwyd County Council, Shire Hall, Mold, Clwyd. Tel: Mold (0352) 2121. Telex 61454.

### WALESE POLITICS

## The voters won't be taken for granted

There are recidivists in politics as there are in crime and, despite the short, sharp shock they were given in the referendum four years ago, some old lags have still not given up the idea of devolution for Wales. They certainly persist within the SDP, and the Labour Party too continue to argue the case - in both cases now for the whole of Britain - as a way of ensuring the public accountability of non-elected bodies.

Not surprisingly, the Labour Party in Wales is at best wary about continuing to back an idea which has been emphatically demonstrated to be a loser. But perhaps in Wales people are yearning for a time not so long past when the idea of Welsh politics seemed to be significant in a United Kingdom context.

After all, it was exciting to be at the centre of the political stage, to have a government spending two legislative years trying to establish Welsh and Scottish assemblies. It was certainly exciting for the nationalists as chief whips came calling on their MPs, asking after their health and their voting intentions.

But the election which followed the devolution referendum in 1979 is supposed to have demonstrated that, far from being a special case, politics in Wales were becoming more and more like those in England. That was shown, it was argued, by the fact that support for the Conservatives went up to a remarkable 32.2 per cent, Labour's share of the poll was down at 46.9 per cent and Plaid Cymru managed only just over 8 per cent.

That was perhaps a rather simplistic way of looking at the results, and it is equally possible to argue that politics in Wales have become more, rather than less, distinctive to say that it was devolution, in fact, which forced the Conservative Party in particular to adopt a much clearer attitude towards Wales.

Whereas the Conservatives had insisted for many years that the future of Wales was inextricably bound up with that of the rest of the United Kingdom, they had, when Labour was making the running

on devolution, to define their attitudes to Wales and to assert their own view of it.

It was, after all, a Conservative government which established the Commons Select Committee on Welsh Affairs which, while it was not intended as an answer to the devolution proposals, at least helped to legitimise the idea that there were distinctive Welsh problems which demanded a separate analysis.

And while it opposed the idea of setting up bodies like the Welsh Development Agency, the present Government has in fact been extremely solicitous, since taking office, to see that such organizations actually work.

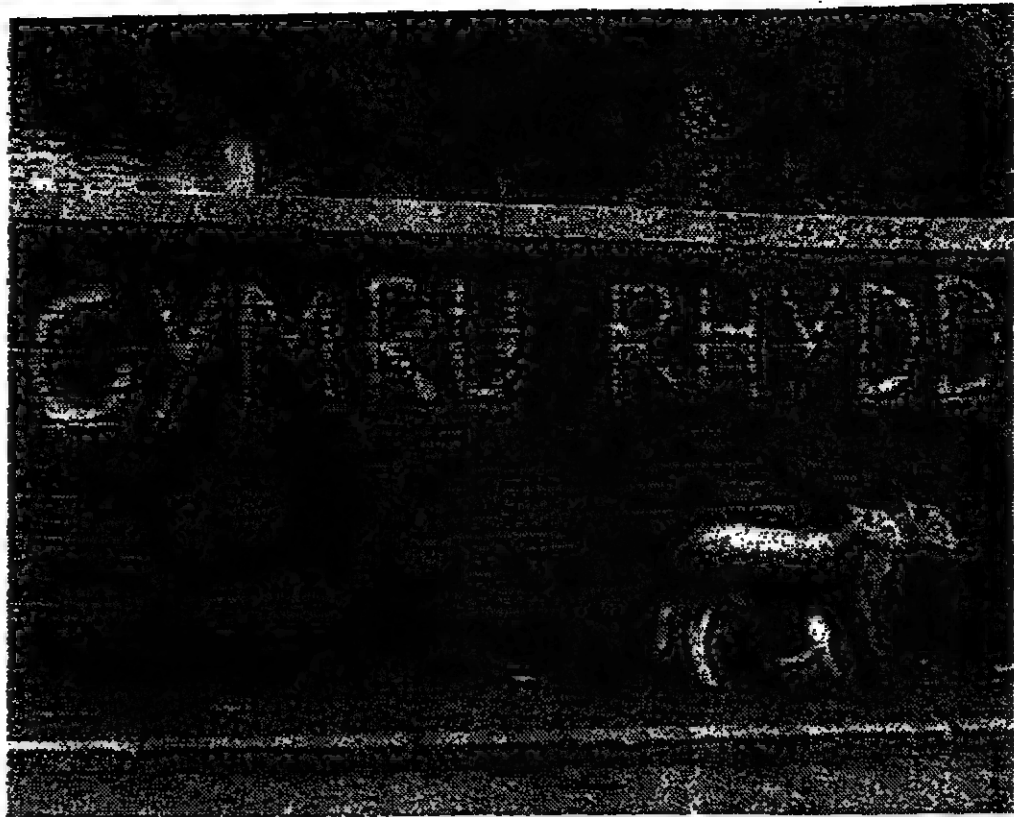
So Welsh politics exist to some extent because the organizations exist - most notably the Welsh Office, which has been given increased power by each successive government since the first Secretary of State took office less than 20 years ago.

It seems to be institutional momentum as much as deliberate political policy which has brought about more Welsh-based, politics in Wales, but it looks at first glance as though the Conservatives have been the main beneficiaries.

At the 1966 general election, Labour won 32 of the 36 Welsh seats. The Conservatives took three and the Liberals one. By 1979 Labour were hanging on to 21 seats, the Conservatives had 11, Plaid Cymru two and the Liberals one. (The odd one out is Cardiff West, represented by the Speaker, who was once a Labour MP.)

But there is a lot more to Welsh politics than a simple analysis which suggests the decline of Labour, the rise of the Conservatives (and, just possibly one day, the SDP) with Plaid Cymru dodging around at somewhere under 10 per cent of the poll and the Liberals, as ever, failing to represent in seats their share of support.

In individual constituencies voters have shown that they are capable of great volatility. Tactical voting was evident in Wales long before it became fashionable in Bermondsey and



"Free Wales" slogan near Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales

other places. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that Gwynfor Evans won Carmarthen for Plaid Cymru in 1974 because Conservative and Labour voters wanted Labour to lose. In the same way Labour lost Cardigan to the Liberals because Plaid Cymru and Conservative supporters decided to vote the anti-Labour ticket.

It would, though, be dangerous to underestimate the strength of the Labour Party in Wales, which is essentially cautious, respectable and traditionalist: last year, for instance, its annual conference voted for the expulsion of Militant. The party also retains its overwhelming control of local government in the areas of Wales in which councils are politicized, and its hold on traditional loyalties was demonstrated in the Gower by-election last September.

Labour certainly lost ground with a majority cut from 10,000 to 7,000; but the Conservatives fell back too, coming third after competing for votes with the SDP particularly in the middle-class areas of the constituency. But what was most impressive about a rather dull campaign was Labour's ability to retain its solid core of support.

Not many years ago the excitement about that by-election would probably have been created by Plaid Cymru, who mounted some staggering assaults on Labour majorities in the 1960s. But now Plaid Cymru seems rather to have lost its way as it tries to combine issue politics with a traditional party approach.

There is no doubt that it was damaged by the devolution episode; throwing out the idea of an assembly by a huge majority is a pretty dusty answer to a party whose aim is self-government for Wales.

The campaign for a Welsh language television channel backed by a programme of civil disobedience can be counted a success for Plaid Cymru.

But an attempt to create the same kind of pressure over what English authorities pay for Welsh water failed to make the same impact, despite the fact that those with no nationalist sympathies whatsoever are liable to turn purple when they open their bills from the Welsh Water Authority.

The last genuine test of Welsh political attitudes - the lower by-election - put Plaid Cymru a head fourth. The party desperately needs a much better performance before the next

general election and further opportunities are likely to be available soon.

Two of Wales' leading politicians - Michael Roberts, the Conservative MP for Cardiff North-West, and Alec Jones, the Labour member for Rhondda, recently died suddenly within a few weeks of each other - sadly for those who like colour, energy and goodwill in their politics.

The Cardiff seat, it is generally felt, is naturally Tory, even if with only a 6,200 majority. But at the same time it is the kind of seat the SDP will have to win if it is to provide a really significant presence in the next Parliament.

Rhonda represents everything that industrial Welsh seats have always been said to be. A Labour majority of 31,000 testifies to the fierce loyalty the party commands there. A political mountaineer will need his oxygen bottles to climb over that lot. But even there the voters refuse to be taken for granted. When Jones was first elected 16 years ago, he had a majority of only 2,000 over Plaid Cymru.

**Patrick Hannan**  
The BBC's Welsh Political Correspondent

## All ready for the upturn

Continued from previous page

the appointment of Mr MacGregor, has left the South Wales miners unusually apprehensive about the future.

In the current financial year the South Wales colliery will lose more than £100m, making it by far the most unprofitable in Britain. Of the 33 pits in the valleys, 11 are losing more than £50 a tone. Losses on this scale easily swallow up the profits made by the 11 pits which turn in a good financial performance.

Local miners' leaders constantly claim that the Coal Board has a list of up to 12 pits it would like to close. While this is routinely denied by the Board, it seems likely there will be moves to close another two pits over the next 12 months.

In North Wales the quarrying of slate has long ceased to be a major source of employment and the industry now employs only some 400 people. But old mines, such as Llanfyllid at Blaenau Ffestiniog, have been reopened as tourist attractions and their effect on the economy of the area has been startling.

The slimdown of the steel plant and retraction of dependent industries has alerted new industrialists to the availability of a highly skilled workforce. Statistics prove categorically that their reputation for being strike-happy just is not true.

Japanese companies have found that the workers adapt readily to new management styles and produce work of high quality. At Shotton, British

Steel Industry has been working closely with the Welsh Development Agency to attract new industry and there are new companies established on the site of the steel works. Since 1978 BSC industry in Wales has helped to create, expand or relocate 320 companies in the Principality, involving 13,000 job commitments.

More good news from the Principality came last month from Mr Meirion Lewis, chief executive of the Development Corporation of Wales. He said that in the next six months five European firms, five American and three from Japan were expected to announce decisions to set up in Wales.

This month the Wales TUC will be releasing details of the

Wales Co-operative Development and Training Scheme, which will aim at the creation of 1,000 new jobs in the next three years. Already the centre, which will have a full-time director, has been promised £100,000 from local authorities the same amount from the Welsh Office, £60,000 from the European Social Fund and £45,000 from the Welsh Development Agency.

Throughout the Principality there is a very cautious optimism that the worst may be over. No one underestimates the problems but there is a belief that from the lessons of steel, Wales can emerge with a healthy and more diversified industrial base.

T.J.

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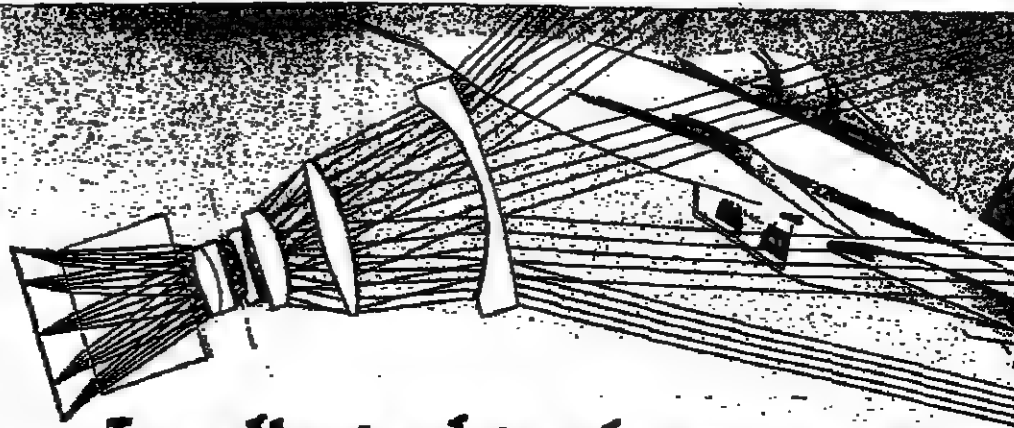
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WALES

TOURISM

# Welcoming the greenery back to the valleys

Stereotyped images are hard to erase. Just as Snowdonia is known to be beautiful, so the South Wales valleys are thought of as unmitigatedly miserable - grim, depressing places that the tourist has to motor through on his way to the Brecon Beacons, the undulating richness of Mid-Wales and the high grandeur of the North.

But the tourist should stop and investigate, for as the great industries of coal and steel have declined so the valleys are being returned to the kind of beauty they had before they were ravaged by the industrial revolution. Soon there will be only one pit left in the Rhondda valley, an area that was once synonymous with the production of coal.

The National Coal Board has spent millions of pounds on removing and landscaping pits and once-barren hillsides have been transformed into attractive wooded vistas.

As part of its effort to capture an increased share of the British tourist market, the Wales Tourist Board, co-operating with local councils in promoting a "Visit the Valleys" campaign. Six thousand brochures are being printed, extolling the virtues of the two Rhondda valleys, which also offer a treasurehouse of discovery for the student of industrial history.

Further west, private and public bodies have combined to form the Neath Development Partnership, which recently announced a £3.5m development, embracing nine separate projects which link existing facilities in the Gower Peninsula, Swansea, and West Glamorgan with the Brecon Beacons.

The partnership hopes that the scheme will provide 600 new jobs in an area that suffers an unemployment rate of more than 18 per cent, and its attractions are geared to creating a balance of interest for all members of the family. While some visitors will enjoy a leisurely canal trip, others will be able to ski down the most extensive main slope in Britain. Some of the attractions already exist and last year one of them, the Pencyr Wildlife Park, attracted more than 215,000 visitors.

The scheme is an interesting example of how both sides of the industry can combine for the benefit. Backers include British Petroleum, British Steel Industry, Thomson International, Metal Box, PSA Management Consultants, the borough council, the Wales TUC, the Welsh Development Agency and the chairman of the West Glamorgan County Council Education Committee.

Tourism is big business in Wales and the latest figures show that in one year more than eleven million British visitors spent more than £450m in the Principality. An estimated £50m more was spent by 400,000 foreign visitors.

The splendid natural scenery and magnificent castles continue to get the magnets, but the changing pattern of holidays is causing concern to hoteliers. Research carried out by the Wales Tourist Board points to a continuing and worrying decline in the market for the traditional holiday of seven or fourteen nights in seaside hotels.

A report by the board stated: "We cannot put all the blame on factors outside our control. Wales has allowed its share of long holidays to slip by, failing to increase spending on publicity and promotion at a time when there was increased competition from within Britain and abroad.

"Nor was tourism helped by the impression that Wales was no longer a welcoming country. Acts of vandalism or protest seen by visitors in holiday areas, including the burning of cottages and the daubing of road signs, strengthened that view."

Being cruel to be kind, the Board has criticized local authorities and the trade for not spending enough on publicity. Wales, the Board maintains, is losing hundreds of millions of pounds of revenue because the country is not being properly promoted.

The overriding complaint made by visitors to Wales is the lack of facilities and things to do when the weather is bad. It is a myth that it always rains in Wales, although when the high mountains catch the clouds on their western edge the results can be pretty spectacular.

Wet Sundays in Wales are now far less miserable for the tourist, for following the latest septennial referendum on the issue, only two small areas prevent public houses from opening on that day.

While some resorts still offer little more than their natural beauty, Rhylldan Borough Council has responded magnificently to the demand for more amenities by building at Rhyl a magnificent all-weather sun centre. There, for a reasonable entrance charge, a family can spend a whole day having fun, swimming and surfing in what must be one of the most imaginative ventures in the tourist field in Britain. Last year more than 500,000 people visited it to make it the top tourist attraction in Wales.

Further down the North Wales coast, Llandudno, elegant and peaceful in its sun trap setting has built a modern conference centre to expand its share of the talking trade.

Cardiff, the capital city, has recently joined the major conference league with the opening of the St David's Hall, a fine complex which has as its core a fine auditorium, capable of seating 2,000 people. It has already played host to a national Social Democratic Party conference and the city council hopes that eventually it will attract between ten and twenty conferences a year. In August, Cardiff Castle, itself a marvellous monument, is the stage for the annual searchlight tattoo, a spectacular and colourful pageant which easily rivals the one held at Edinburgh.

Culturally, there are still few greater experiences than hearing a full-blown Welsh male voice choir in full song. These dedicated amateurs continue to thrive and when two mighty choirs clash in competition the contest is as keenly fought as any cup final.



Barry Island: a well established holiday resort.

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**THE DESIGN COUNCIL**

LANGUAGE

# The Welsh Not in reverse

After lying empty and forlorn for 20 years, the tiny hidden village of Nant Gwrthym in the Lleyn Peninsula, in the Welsh heartland of Gwynedd, has been revived and rebuilt into a study centre for the Welsh language. Its renovation from the ruins of derelict cottages has become a symbol for the language itself. Almost submerged by the policies and poor culture of the 1950s and 1960s, defenders of the language have staged a counter-punching fight back to ensure its position as the strongest of the old Celtic tongues.

But if battles have been won, the war for the future of *yr hen iaith* (the old language) still rages, albeit at a much reduced rate, and the number of speakers is declining. Only 500,000 people now speak Welsh and they are to be found primarily in the west of the principality, which was largely bypassed by the effects of the debilitating industrial revolution.

Engulfed by a powerful neighbour with an international tongue, it is surprising that Welsh has survived at all. Parliaments, aided more often than not by Welsh members, decreed that the language should die and instituted measures to bury it. The most emotive was the Welsh Not, the board which was hung around the neck of any child heard speaking the language during the school day. The last to wear it was thrashed. The fact that children in some schools in Wales are now gently reprimanded if they are heard speaking English indicates dramatically how the wheel is turning.

Among the vast majority of monoglot English-speaking people there is a strong caucus who maintain they are discriminated against because of their inability to speak Welsh. In Gwynedd, recently parents complained against the county council's declared policy of making all school children bilingual.

Their protest was led by English parents who have settled in Wales and the growing influx of families from across Offa's Dyke into the Welsh areas is creating a growing friction. At its most extreme, the fight to preserve the language and culture has led to the burning of holiday homes, and more than 50 of them have now been attacked. The Welsh Language Society, which dissociates itself from the arson, claims Welsh communities are undermined by outsiders who buy cottages at prices local people cannot afford.

The Welsh Language Society, which has just celebrated its twentieth anniversary, has embarked on a new campaign to compel education authorities to make better provision for bilingual education. At present, each of the eight authorities has its own policies and the society argues, a new board should be established to strengthen Welsh medium education throughout the land.

Crude research by the society estimates that such a body would require funding at an annual rate of £30m, a sum which in the present economic climate seems wildly optimistic.

In any event Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales has said that such a body would be "counter-productive". During his term of office, Mr Edwards has had much first hand experience of the wrath of the language zealots. His car has been ambushed and personal abuse heaped on him by extremists. In spite of that, he has managed to secure more money for Welsh education and voluntary organisations than the sums given by previous administrations and has publicly stated his commitment to the language.

The single biggest breakthrough in the fight for the survival of the language occurred last November when S4C, the Welsh language television station, was launched in Cardiff.

In spite of the establishment of the channel, regarded by many as the ultimate anchor for the language, the fight will continue. The Welsh Language Society plans another campaign against what it perceives to be the weaknesses of the 1967 Welsh Language Act which gave the language equal validity in courts of law with English. According to society members all official documents should be available in both languages as a matter of course. The battles and efforts to save the tongue have been impressive but the outcome of the war remains uncertain. It is a fight that only the Welsh can win, for without their commitment no amount of government aid or subsidised television can prevent the slow decline of their language.

Cardiff is also the home of the Welsh National Opera Company, whose scintillating performances have been acclaimed throughout the world. The City's culture is completed by fine theatres, where shows are often performed before they go on for a West End run.

Many of the performances are backed by the Welsh Arts Council, which treads a precarious course between giving assured value for money through the presentation of tried and trusted favourites while venturing occasionally into the realms of experimental theatre.

Its critics maintain that it does not give sufficient encouragement to Welsh writers. However, its support of Yr Academi Gymreig (The Welsh Academy), which promotes poetry and literature and has funded many workshops to encourage new writers, may indicate otherwise.

As a whole, Wales - weather, wine and all - provides an astonishing range of leisure and cultural activities for the tourist. From the sandy beaches of Cardigan Bay to the born-again valleys, its range of holidays ranks with any to be found elsewhere in Britain.

**T. J.**

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**WALES' CITY OF ELEGANCE**

## 24 new companies make it a record month for Wales.

The number of businesses choosing to settle in Wales hit an all-time peak in February. Most of the newcomers are in the high-technology sector.

A spokesman for the Welsh Development Agency said, "We are delighted to welcome these recent arrivals."

Mr Bob Amos and Bank of Scotland £30.

# Good news rarely hits the headlines.

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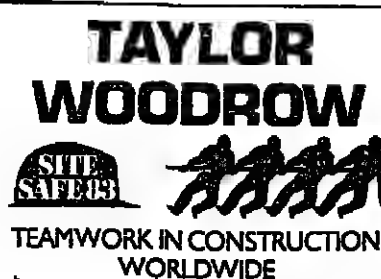
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Trust Securities' daring £104m bid for civil engineer and property developer Percy Bilton was teetering on the brink of failure last night.

The National Cash Pension Fund has announced it sold nearly 1 million shares out of its total holding of 4.6 million shares (12.38 per cent of the equity) at about 274p earlier this week. Dealers said this reflected the belief among many institutions that the bid would fail and they would cash in their hands while the going was good.

Yesterday shares of Percy Bilton were unchanged at 288p - some 35p above Trust's original shares, convertible and cash offer worth 255p a share.

However, Mr Peter Jones, chairman of the much smaller Trust Securities, was under-terred. "I am extremely confident that there will be one", he said.

Investors have until next week to decide whether to accept the bid, but with still no sign of a white knight or higher

offer from Trust the battle looks like a first round knockout for Bilton. Shares of Trust closed 1p lower at 83p.

That old bid favourite, Associated Fisheries, is back on investors' shopping lists this week closing 3p yesterday at a new high of 72p. Word is the group has been presented with a bid of 120p a share. Last night the company was unavailable for comment.

Meanwhile, the latest cut in bank base rates of 1/2 point to 10 per cent was discounted by the market as share prices spent a quiet time for most of the day, before a late burst of support from Wall Street prices close at their best levels of the day.

Blue chips were again singled out for attention including ICI 10p up at a new high of 426p,

after yesterday's article in *The Times* on brokers Wood Mackenzie's upgrading of profits. The Americans also came in for Beechams a similar figure higher at 413p and Glaxo up £13/32 at £8 21/32. The FT Index closed 1.8 higher at 688.9.

Gills spent another lacklustre day with the new 10.5 per cent 1989 managing to close with a gain to 10p the party paid price of £25 when dealing began. Less than half the £1,000m of stock offered was applied for.

The rest of the market recovered earlier falls of 1/4 to 1/2 cent unchanged on the day as the pound gained 0.4 cents to \$1.5405 on the foreign exchange market. The better than expected full year figures from Rio Tinto-Zinc gave a fillip to the rest of the mining finance sector with the shares climbing 40p to 584p after achieving pre-tax profits

only £7m less than last year's figure of £348m. As a result the chartists reckon the whole sector is worthy of a buy including Consolidated Gold Fields 12p to 539p and Charter Consolidated 7p lower at 243p.

Shares of Fidelity Radio jumped 10p to 180p last night after the group had unveiled its new cordless telephone at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Already it has received orders from British Telecom. Last year Fidelity reduced losses from £3m to £245,000.

One of the highlights of yesterday's session was the market debut of Mr Eric Morley's Miss World Group. Brokers placed an order for 810,000 shares, or 42 per cent of the company, at 60p with various institutions. The first price quoted on the jobbers'

boards was 133p - a premium of 73p in first time dealings and valuing the company at £2.5m. By the close the shares had settled at 131p. Mr Morley said he was pleased to see the market judging the company as a commercial enterprise.

Overshadowed by Miss World's debut was first time dealings in Bensons Crisps. First time dealings of the shares on the Unlisted Securities Market saw a premium of 33p over the placing price of 68p.

It looks as though Mr Michael Ashcroft's Kean & Scott wants to get a full quotation as soon as possible. The Unlisted Securities Market company has just completed a successful bid for the furniture group Alpine Holdings. In electricals little Arlen Electrical jumped 15p to 300p buoyed up by hopes of lucrative orders for its new starter motor from the Hanover Trade Fair. Mr Arthur Levy, chairman, returned from the show yesterday. Bid talk was again good for 31p on Ranks Hovis McDougall at 63p. S & W Berisford held 15 per cent of the shares and is thought to be poised to sell its stake to another bidder.

## Bid for Bilton falters

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 11. Dealings end, April 22. Contango Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

### BRITISH FUNDS

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# Higher inflation after a Tory victory forecast

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

A re-elected Conservative government would produce higher inflation, sluggish economic growth and a further increase in unemployment, according to forecasts released yesterday by DRI Europe, the consulting group, released yesterday.

The group, which assumes a Conservative victory in an autumn election, predicts growth of 1.9 per cent this year, rising to 2.4 per cent next year, but subsiding to 1.8 per cent in 1985.

Adult unemployment is expected by the group to rise from 12 per cent of the workforce this year to 13.4 per cent in 1985. Inflation, it says, will rise from an average of 6.2 per cent this year to a peak of just over 9 per cent next spring, with little slackening afterwards.

This is despite the pursuit of tight fiscal policies, which preclude any substantial tax cuts.

Higher import prices, sharp increases in labour costs at home and an end to the temporary effects of interest rate falls and artificially depressed public sector prices will all combine to push up inflation, DRI says.

Higher inflation will restrain growth of real incomes, slowing the rise in economic activity, DRI believes, ruling out a significantly stronger recovery.

The DRI forecasts were presented to a conference on the European Economic Outlook, where Mr Jack Straw, Labour Treasury spokesman, berated Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, for inconsistency on exchange rate policy.

Mr Straw said that after lofty criticism of Labour's devaluation plans, Sir Geoffrey now admitted that the lower pound had boosted competitiveness and improved the economic outlook.

## Last-quarter loss hits Morgan Crucible

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Morgan Crucible Year to 31.12.82  
Pre-tax profit £4.72m (28.07m)  
Statutory earnings 3.5p (10.5p)  
Turnover £152m (£133m)  
Net final dividend 4p, making 7.5p (7.5p)  
Share price 109p, up 3p  
Dividend payable 15.7.83

Morgan Crucible, the industrial components and materials company, slipped into losses in the final quarter to end the year with pre-tax profits down by 42 per cent to £4.72m. After nine months of the year the group was showing a profit of £5.1m.

However Morgan believes the worst is over and is maintaining its final dividend at 4p to leave the year's payout unchanged at 7.5p.

Sir James Spence, chairman, said that although there was little sign of substantial world-wide economic recovery, the improvements in the United Kingdom and America were encouraging the value of the pound was also helpful since two-thirds of the group's sales were overseas.

"There was a false dawn at this time last year but current indications are that most economies in which Morgan operates have either stabilized or are improving," Sir James said. He added that this, together with the determination to stay competitive, was why the board decided to hold the dividend.

Most of Morgan's divisions reported lower trading profits last year. One exception was lubrication where profits rose from £2.1m to £2.3m.

Net finance charges were also up, last year, increasing from £4.02m to £5.11m.

Because of the poor demand worldwide in the final quarter, Morgan carried out plans to cut domestic overheads at a cost of £750,000 and the number of employees have been reduced.

Trading profits last year were reduced by a total of £1.27m reflecting redundancy and reorganization costs. This compared with a charge of £961,000 against the previous year's profits.

The group's cost-cutting measures will also mean less disclosure to shareholders.

## Russians cut cheap cruises

From John Earle, Rome

Soviet cruise ships offering cut-price holidays from Italian ports are to be limited as a result of talks in Moscow between Italian shipowners, represented by Signor Nicola Costa, and the Soviet organization Morpaslot.

Signor Costa, chairman of Costa Armatori, which runs Italy's biggest private fleet of cruise ships, said the Russians had agreed to a maximum of 250 cruises days this year accumulated by Soviet-crewed ships chartered to Italian operators.

In 1984, the limit would be further reduced to 200 days. This compared with more than 340 days accumulated last year by Soviet ships carrying on average 600 passengers.

The Russians, Signor Costa added, had also agreed to hold a meeting by the end of March each year, between their organization and the Italian shipowners' organization, Confarmar, to approve a charter programme of Soviet ships for the subsequent year.

They also gave a general undertaking to limit to the 1982 level, the resale of berths on the Italian market which were available on Soviet ships chartered to other foreign operators, particularly West German.

## Datalogic to buy main parts of Altergo

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Datalogic, a British computer systems company owned by the American Raytheon group, will buy the main part of Altergo, the software house that went into receivership last week.

The receivers, Mr Ipe Jacob and Mr Maurice Withall of London accountants Thornton Baker, had offers from many buyers in Britain and the United States. They had to negotiate very quickly before Altergo's 275 employees - the vital asset of the business - dispersed to other jobs.

Datalogic is buying the two largest subsidiaries, Altergo Limited and Altergo Business Systems, and has offered employment for nearly all of their 150 staff who were made

redundant earlier this week. They will trade as a separate unit under the Altergo name within the Datalogic organization. The price paid was not disclosed.

The receivers said they were negotiating "with several interested parties in the United Kingdom and the United States" about the future of the remaining parts of Altergo, notably Altergo Software which has significant involvement in the American market.

"Because that business is more complex it is likely to be some days before an announcement can be made" about Altergo Software, Mr Jacob and Mr Withall said yesterday.

## Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Interest Rates

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. announces that its base rate for lending will change from 10½% to 10% with effect from 15th April 1983

The interest rates paid on call deposits will be call deposits of £1,000 and over 6¼% (call deposits of £300 - £999 5¼%)

Rates of interest on fixed deposits of over £5,000 will be quoted on request. Enquiries: Please telephone 01-9304611



Head Office: 23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 2ED

## National Westminster Bank PLC

NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, 15th April, 1983, its Base Rate is reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum.

The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are reduced from 7½% to 6¾% per annum.

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP



Courts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum with effect from the 15th April 1983 until further notice.

The Deposit Rate on monies subject to seven days notice of withdrawal is reduced from 7½% to 6¾% per annum.

## Williams & Glyn's

### Interest Rate Changes

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from 15th April 1983 its Base Rate for advances is reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum.

Interest on deposits at 7 days' notice is reduced from 7½% to 6¾% per annum.



Williams & Glyn's Bank plc

## The Royal Bank of Scotland Base Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc announces that with effect from close of business on 15 April 1983 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 10½% per cent per annum to 10 per cent per annum.

## Bugner hits on a royal road to the world crown

By Alan Hubbard

Joe Bugner's prospects of competing for any sort of title in the Indian summer of his career seem to be receding. He learnt yesterday that the European champion, Lucien Rodriguez, of France, has overlooked the cheque-book proffered by the London promoter, Frank Turner, and instead will defend his title against his fellow countryman, Sylvain Wabbed, on May 26.

Before Bugner can make serious noises about a world title engagement with Larry Holmes he needs to reestablish himself in the top 10 of the World Boxing Council rankings. Acquisition of the European championship would make this possible, for Rodriguez himself has just earned £100,000 as an opponent for Holmes in a tedious, one-way engagement in the champion's home town of Scranton, New Jersey.

In order to take that contest Rodriguez escaped himself from a proposed meeting with the 33-year-old Bugner. Now he has done so again, rejecting an offer of £40,000 from Mr Turner.

So, just as he did in frustration with Frank Bruno, Bugner has decided to forget all about Mr Rodriguez. Instead he will try to short-circuit the rankings by beating

an American, Danny Sutton, at the Alexandra Pavilion on Wednesday and then the former world title contender, Randy (Tex) Cobb, on June 8 at the same venue. Cobb is accorded seventh place in one of the several boxing ranking lists, and Bugner claims "He will be tougher opposition than Rodriguez but I think he will be easier to read because he stands in front of you while Rodriguez is always running. I see next Wednesday's bout as a quarter-final and the one with Cobb as a semi-final for an eventual match with Holmes."

Bugner and his promoter believe that the importation of Cobb will satisfy those who have been sceptical about the standard of opposition during his "comeback." Yesterday Bugner sparred three rounds with the 25-year-old Swedish heavyweight, Anders Eklund, who has won all his five professional contests and is being touted as a "white hope." Eklund, who weighs nearly 17 stones and is 6ft 5½ in tall, is based in Copenhagen because professional boxing is banned in Sweden. He will be appearing in a supporting bout at the Alexandra Pavilion on Wednesday and should be worth comparing with Britain's young prospect, Bruno.



Snubbed again: Joe Bugner

### SHOOTING

## Scots short of shot at new range

By Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent

Thirty of Britain's leading pistol marksmen will be at Bisleigh tomorrow for an inaugural team match, after Dickie Jepp, the chairman of the Sports Council, opens the National Rifle Association's new pistol range.

The new range, built at a cost of £93,000 with a 75 per cent grant from the Sports Council, will almost double the range's previous over-worked pistol shooting facilities. It provides an additional 30 target spaces at 25 and 50 metres and a new range of 10 targets at 10 metres. The new range will involve precision and duelling centrefire at 25 yards range.

Competitors include the reigning British champion, John Cooke, the police rapid fire champion, Graham Harvey, most of the top international, and teams representing Army, Police, England, Wales, and Scotland.

### HOCKEY

## England's burst exacts injury toll

From Joyce Whitehead, Kuala Lumpur

A second-half burst of goals gave England a 3-2 win over New Zealand and a place at the top of their group in the women's World Cup yesterday.

After a goalless first half, England took a 2-0 lead, Jane Swinerton (Staffordshire) finished off a lovely passing movement between Robinson and Gordon for the first goal and Linda Carr (Lancashire) lifted the ball towards goal and a New Zealander inadvertently helped it into the net for the second. New Zealand's Jenny McDonald reduced the arrears before Ruth Hume (Sussex) came on in place of Barbara Hambly and soon scored England's third goal.

Calamity nearly struck England in the closing minutes. Vicki Dixon was injured and replaced by Mary Allen. New Zealand scored again and then Kim Gordon (Leicestershire) appeared to be injured. England had already used their three substitutes, but the hostess sounded the alarm to save them from further punishment.

Scotland's and Wales's hopes of a

place in the semi-finals faded when they drew 1-1 in a pedestrian game. Joan Dobie gave Scotland the lead midway through the second half and Sally Manly equalised for Wales.

On Wednesday evening Scotland drew 1-1 with Australia. Marcell Young scored in the ninth minute and Scotland kept the lead until the 60th minute when Sharon Buchanan equalised.

At the same time Wales kept up their improvement and drew 1-1 with India. Shirley Morgan scored the WORLD CUP Canada 2, West Germany 1; USSR 1, Argentina 0, England 3, New Zealand 2; Scotland 1, Wales 1.

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP: Spain 2, Zimbabwe 1.

### Why trampolining fails to take off

## Spring in the air but still a frost on the ground

There is something ever so subtly silly about the idea of trampolining. Not with the actuality, oh no, certainly not. When you see these finely honed athletes taking off like roman candles spinning like catenae wheels among the rafters, you catch your breath in admiration and astonishment. Trampolining as a sport involves almost impossibly high levels of skill, power and sheer terror, yet it cannot shake off a background taste of frivolity, its associations with pinging bed-springs and dorm romps.

At its highest level, this sport is one of dazzling pyrotechnics controlled with an iron will, and when the world champion, Carl Furrer, and his young pretender, Glenn Kelly, of Australia, locked horns at the Southern Area Championships there was a surfeit of delights to gratify both the purist and the seeker of sensation.

It was a classic duel, with Furrer returning from an eight month break from competition, pitting his lethally sharp technique against the amiable Australian who sought to compensate for technical shortcomings by outdoing the champion in the heroics department.

### Soft landings

Kelly had left Australia to compete in Britain because Britain is the world's leading trampolining nation. That is because Britain takes it seriously as a sport in its own right, even though nobody pings up and down in the Olympic Games. The trampoline is an American invention, but trampolining got a bad name there. Bouncing became a craze, you weren't any one if you didn't have a trampoline by the poolside and a pair of crutches to help you walk after you'd broken your leg on the damn thing.

A lot of people got themselves hurt by being stupid and not realising that if you are 30 feet above your target you don't have a lot of margin for error. In Britain, a trampoline became the first resort of school sports departments with a spot left over in the budget, and here it was taken seriously, and the dangers circumvented. At HMS Temeraire, the Navy's physical education base where the Southern Area Open was taking place, the tramps were surrounded by soft landing stuff, and though there were a few major misadventures, no-one was actually hurt.

From the schools, the effort grew. The British Trampolining Federation's press man, Tony Hull said: "It's our system of bringing on youngsters by

### OUTPOSTS

organizing competitions in age groups that makes us the best. Take Andrea Holmes. Her first major competition outside England was the world championships in Montana last year, and at one stage she was sixth. And though she blew it in her final round, and finished 10th, when it comes to the next world championships, in Osaka in 1984, she is going to be something to be reckoned with." Andrea Holmes is 13.

Britain is good at the sport, and there is great flooding of interest at the schools, with plenty of gym teachers able to coach trampolining at the basic levels, and a good network of clubs across the country to bring people on. There is even one professional coach, Brian Phelps, who got the taste for bouncing when in training for Olympic diving competitions.

But for all his efforts and the efforts of trampolining enthusiasts across the world, the sport, for all its dizzy-making skills, remains a strict minority activity; the poor relation of gymnastics. A day at HMS Temeraire makes it clear that something has gone completely and stupidly wrong here.

Though gymnastics and trampolining are blood brothers, there was a familial disagreement a long way back, and the road split many a mile ago. Both sports are the poorer for the parting, but the chances of their coming together again seem achingly remote. The division is no longer a matter of rancour or disagreement: it is simply a *fait accompli*.

"Trampolining is a fantastic sport," said Nick Stuart, director of technical development with the British Amateur Gymnastics Association. "We use trampolines a lot in training, and so do the Russians. It's a sport that requires courage, skill and accuracy. In some ways an amalgamation would make sense, but trampolining has become a specialized sport now."

### Spectacular

Trampolining has influenced mainstream gymnastics, notably with the spectacular spinning dismounts from the high bar and the rings, but as things stand, that is as close as the two are likely to get. Gymnastics seems all set in its own error, for a brief period the trampoline was introduced as the seventh item in the



Aerial artistry: Glenn Kelly, world number two, bouncing on high. Photograph by Peter Trievnor

men's programme but it was removed again. Seven was too many. The extraordinarily tedious and apparently nonsensical skills of shuffling about on a pommel horse, and the sickening spectacle of little girls turning on immaculately coaxed pixie smiles as they skip about on the floor to music, hold the attention of those involved in the mainstream sport of gymnastics.

There are tremendous things to watch in gymnastics as well as silly ones. Sure enough, but trampolining, pared of synthetic charm and bursting with quite spectacular daring and zeal, seems somehow to have blown it for the moment. Which is why the Southern Open was at HMS Temeraire, a well organized competitors competition, rather than a crowd grabbing spectacle at the Wembley Arena.

Yet there was plenty to grab crowds. Kelly, the death-defying Australian, was matching his spectacular range of shimmer-

## Benefits accruing from TV coverage

By Robert Pryce

The British Championship schedule is fixed, at last, virtually to everybody's satisfaction. Cleveland Bombers play Durham Wasps home and away this weekend and at Stratham the following Friday. The next day at Stratham, the winners will play Dundee Rockets in the championship final. The two games at Stratham will be televised for ITV.

A complex formula has been devised to ensure that the Cleveland-Durham series is competitive for all three games. It will be possible for a team to lose two of the three games and still qualify for the final, an elegant contortion designed to accommodate the television network.

The British game has not always appeared so cooperative towards television's requirements. "A lot of the clubs do not yet realise the impact they can make through television," John Davis, Thames Television's head of sport, observed. "I hope that will get sorted out for next season."

The benefits in sponsorship and public interest that can accompany television coverage did not impress Ken Bailey, manager of the Altrincham rink and a member of the British Ice Hockey Association council, who balked at plans to televise two Thursday evening games at Altrincham last month.

Everything appeared to have been arranged, including rink-side advertising, when Mr Bailey informed Granada, the television company, that he would not cancel public skating sessions or instructional periods so that lighting could be installed.

Granada withdrew, vowing never to return. Graham Nurse, the local club's leading administrator, resigned. He is now helping to set up a club in a new rink planned for Rochdale.

Nevertheless, ITV plan to take up their option on a second season of coverage. The ice hockey that the network has managed to show has been favourably received. "The ratings overall have been incredible," Mr Davis said. "And I have never known a sport on television which has had such a response."

Now the sport is about to benefit financially from its television impact. On Monday the BHA will announce details of a contract it has just signed with a big sponsor for next season's British League. The deal should bolster the stock of the BHA, never very high among its member clubs, and shore up the structure of the British League.

Simon Barnes























# Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

6.00 **Crestal** AM. News headlines, weather, sport and traffic details. This service is also available with a television set without the Teletext facility.

6.30 **Breakfast Time**: Today's presenters are Selina Scott and Frank Bough. News headlines at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Headlines on the quarter hours, and regional news and traffic at 8.45, 9.15, 9.45 and 10.15. Today's guests, Peter Ustinov and Harold Macmillan, will be talking about the Soviet Union.

12.30 **News After Noon**: and weather prospects; 12.57 **Financial Report**. And news headlines, with sub-titles.

1.00 **Pebble Mill at One**: the conversation and music magazine from the studio foyer.

1.45 **Postman Pat**: puppet story for the youngsters.

2.00 **American Gardens**: A non-commentary, picture-and-music "film" rather like the soothing postcard wheel "Hills of Old".

2.15 **Racing from Newbury**: begins. John Craven tells the day - the Gainsborough Stud Free Daring Stakes, at 3.00. We also see the 2.30 and 3.30 races. Commentary by Julian Jackson.

3.55 **Play School**: also on BBC 2, at 11.00am; 4.20 **The New Schmoos**: cartoon; 4.40 **The Unknown Enchantment**: by Rosamund Harvis. The story of the casting of a spell.

5.10 **Breakthrough**: New series begins. John Craven tells the story of Edward Jenner, the humble village doctor who made the first important discovery about smallpox. He visits Jenner's house at Berkeley. In future programmes, John Craven will be telling the stories of Joseph Lister, pioneer of antiseptic surgery, and Edwin Chadwick, who fought to clean up the streets and sewers of rich industrial cities of 19th century England.

5.35 **Roobarb** (R).

5.45 **News and weather prospects**: 6.00 **South East at Six**; 6.22 **News**: including Sportsweek at 6.45.

7.00 **Film: A Gathering of Eagles** (1952) Drama about the United States' Strategic Air Command in the nuclear age, with Rock Hudson as the efficiency-obsessed colonel who gives orders at his command base a very trying time. Produced and directed by two former flyers, by Sammen and Delbert Mann, and co-starring Mary Peach, Roy Taylor and Barry Sullivan. The flying sequences are fine.

8.50 **Points of View**: Barry Took comments on viewers' letters and makes an entertainment out of it.

9.00 **News**: and weekend weather prospects.

9.25 **Maggy and Lacey**: American-made drama series about two co-schemers. Tonight, the schemers allow a master jewel thief to slip through their fingers. He is an elderly gentleman, arrested on a charge and released on bail.

10.15 **Happy Endings**: Another view of life composed by Peter Sarsgaard in a blend of music and comedy. The last in the present repeated series (R).

10.45 **News headlines**: and weather prospects for the coming week.

10.50 **Film: Valdez for Coming** (1971) A conventional Western about a Mexican lawman who kills a suspect and tries to make a name by carrying for the widow. Made in Spain, and starring Burt Lancaster, Susan Clark, John Cypher and Frank Zappa. Directed by Edwin Springer. Ends at 12.25am.

11.00 **Shoof**: The second match in the John Bull Bitter London and Champsford Cup. The team of Charlie Noll competing against Raymond Farbrother. Close: Brian Blessed reads something by Francis Bacon.

12.15 **News at Ten**.

12.30 **The London Programme**: Iain Stewart has earned for itself the name of "The Bananas Republic" because of the odd subjects that end up in the agenda for debate by its left-wing members. We learn tonight why the council has revealed the GLC for the column inches it has won in the newspapers.

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## TV-am

6.00 **Daybreak**: followed at 8.30 by **Good Morning Britain**, presented by Anna Ford and Nick Owen. Items include news at 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, and 9.11; City news at 8.15; Review of the papers at 8.20; Sport at 8.40 and 9.10; TV spot at 9.15; Interview with John Curry at 9.20; Money Talks at 8.40 and 9.10; Money Talks with Michael Barry, at 9.05. Closedown at 9.15.

## ITV/LONDON

9.30 **Sesame Street**: learning things, with The Muppets; 10.30 **News International**: facts for Evening News; 10.35 **The Posidon Files**: The hunt for the humpback whale; 11.30 **Film Fun**: Compilation of award-winning Warner Brothers cartoons, presented by Derek Griffiths (R).

12.00 **Topper**: Talks with Julian Orchard (R); 12.10 **Rainbow**: with Gerry Margard as guest; 12.30 **Wild, Wild, World of Animals**: The clever tricks of the racoon's cousin, the Coati Mundi.

1.00 **News from ITN**: 1.20 **Times news**; 1.30 **About Britain**: The story of a Scots marching band formed in Glasgow and now competing nationally.

2.00 **A Plus**: The topic is middle age. A studio audience discuss it with writers Molly Parkin and Christopher Matthews.

2.30 **Film: Too Many Crooks** (1957) Engaging British comedy about a gang of bungling kidnappers. With Terry-Thomas, George Cole, Sidney James and Vera Day. Director: Mario Zampi.

4.00 **Children's ITV**: **Rainbow** (R); 4.20 **Dangermouse**: the cartoon series that is now selling well in video form; 4.25 **Animals in Action**: All sorts and conditions of frogs.

4.50 **Freemtime**: Youngsters perform songs they have written.

5.15 **Make Me Laugh**: A chuckle-provoking contest.

5.45 **News**: 6.00 **The 6 o'clock Show**: The lighter side of the news, with Michael Aspel and Janet Street-Porter.

7.00 **Family Fortunes**: Cash and quiz with Bob Monkhouse. The Browns from Andrie take on the Ladds from Romford, Essex.

7.30 **Hawaii Five-O**: Steve Garret suspects that a doctor is illegally supplying drugs to addicts.

8.30 **Pig in the Middle**: Susan Bradshaw and her new-found freedom and Barry begins to feel trapped. With Joanna van Gysegem and Terence Brady.

9.00 **Death of an Expert Witness**: Episode 2 of Robin Swicord's dramatic series about the P.D. James murder story reveals the private, poetic side of Adam Dalgleish of the Yard (Ray Marsden). And Maxim Howarth (Barry Foster) starts work as the new director of the Scotland Yard's forensic laboratory.

10.00 **News at Ten**.

10.30 **The London Programme**: Iain Stewart has earned for itself the name of "The Bananas Republic" because of the odd subjects that end up in the agenda for debate by its left-wing members. We learn tonight why the council has revealed the GLC for the column inches it has won in the newspapers.

11.00 **Shoof**: The second match in the John Bull Bitter London and Champsford Cup. The team of Charlie Noll competing against Raymond Farbrother. Close: Brian Blessed reads something by Francis Bacon.

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Timothy Spall in *Guests of the Nation* (BBC 2, 9.30 pm).

## BBC 2

6.05 **Open University**. Until 8.10. Maths Methods; 8.10-8.20 **Science**: 6.30 **Beneath the Surface**; 6.55 **Engineering**: 7.20 **Quantum**: Theory and atomic structure; 7.45 **Newton** evolution.

11.00 **Play School**: also on BBC 1, at 8.55. Closedown at 11.25.

5.10 **ABC in Kansas City**: The last of four films on ABC's coverage of the 1976 Republican Convention in Kansas City.

5.35 **Weekend Outlook**: Open University preview.

5.40 **Film: A Day with the Falcon** (1941). Modestly made thriller starring George Sanders at his immaculate best. It is the story of a famous scientist who disappears. Co-starring Wendy Barrie.

6.40 **Cameo**: a short pictorial essay.

6.50 **Madhur Jeffrey's Indian Cookery**: Rogan Josh.

7.15 **News summary**. With sub-titles.

7.20 **Headline Test**: How a cricket wicket is made. The story of Keith Boyce, head groundsman at Headingley whose job is to prepare all 20 wickets on the square. But much of his skill and energy is reserved for wicket number 12. The test wicket. We learn how, in the summer of 1981, wicket 12 went badly wrong.

7.50 **Did You See...?** A panel (Margaret Jay, Bernard Ashley and Yusuf Hussain) discuss Tucker's Luck, 20-20 Vision (the Channel 4 programme about punters) and Village Earth. And Miles Kingston talks about doctors and nurses on television. The presenter: Iain Johnston.

8.35 **Gardens**: Kenneth and Gillian Beckwith visit Stanhoes, Norfolk not only gives them interest and pleasure but also provides them with living reference material. Roy Lancaster and Geoff Hamilton visit the garden.

9.00 **Entertainment USA**: Jonathan King, in New York City, looks at life and entertainment in America. Items include star interviews, a review of American literature, and a report on local radio, American-style. First in a new eight-week series.

9.30 **Guests of the Nation**: Maurice Leitch's adaptation of Frank O'Connor's classic Irish short story set in County Cork in 1920. Starring Timothy Spall and Tim Woodward. (See Choice).

10.25 **Newsnight**: comment and news bulletins.

11.15 **The Old Grey Whistle Test**: Recorded in Dortmund, Germany, this "rock-pop in" concert features Gary Moore and R.E.O. Speedwagon. Can be seen again on April 19. Ends at midnight.

11.15 **Film: The Big Shot** (1942). Modestly budgeted thriller with Humphrey Bogart as the gangster who tries to go straight but is then caught up in a criminal enterprise masterminded by a lawyer. It was Bogart's last B-movie for Warner Brothers, the company for whom he made his best films and it was made in the same year that he appeared in *Casablanca*. The film co-stars Irene Manning, Richard Travis, Susan Peters, and Stanley Ridges (see the review).

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## CHOICE

especially from Timothy Spall as the provocative Hawkins. And the experienced hand of the director, Donald McWhinnie, is everywhere in evidence.

● The five-minute Radio 1 spot on Saturday afternoons which Jonathan King has been filling with his unorthodox comments on contemporary America, has marked him out as a performer who defies classification. There are neither flares nor moss on Mr King. The surprising thing is that he has had to wait so long for a television series of his own such as *ENTERTAINMENT* (BBC 2, 9.30pm). I have seen nothing of these new showbusiness programmes, but if Mr King's radio

work is anything to go by, we might be in for some stimulating fun.

● Radio highlights: **THE DAILY WOMAN** (Radio 3, 9.20pm), a story by Bernard MacLaverty, read by Brian Brennan in an unusual way that underlines the story's theme rather than underlines it. It is about a man who pays £75 for the use of her body and thereby makes it possible for her to enjoy one night of free-lance luxury and contact with someone who, for once, demands nothing of her. Music highlights include Emanuel Ax's Beethoven and Chopin recital (Radio 3, 7.30pm); and Alexander Balles as cello soloist in Dutilleul's *Tout un monde lointain*, performed by the BBCSO and Chorus (Radio 3, 10.11pm). Poole's Gloria completes an attractive programme.

● **Radio 4** highlights: **THE DAILY WOMAN** (Radio 3, 9.20pm), a story by Bernard MacLaverty, read by Brian Brennan in an unusual way that underlines the story's theme rather than underlines it. It is about a man who pays £75 for the use of her body and thereby makes it possible for her to enjoy one night of free-lance luxury and contact with someone who, for once, demands nothing of her. Music highlights include Emanuel Ax's Beethoven and Chopin recital (Radio 3, 7.30pm); and Alexander Balles as cello soloist in Dutilleul's *Tout un monde lointain*, performed by the BBCSO and Chorus (Radio 3, 10.11pm). Poole's Gloria completes an attractive programme.

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